





## Iran denies envoys were recalled from Ankara in dispute

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's foreign minister denied on Saturday that the top two Iranian diplomats in Turkey had been called home after a storm of protest over their praise for Turkey's Islamic movement.

"They are here only for some consultations, they have not been recalled," Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters at a news conference in Tehran.

Ambassador Mohammad Reza Bagheri faced severe criticism in Turkey for a speech he gave earlier this month at an Ankara rally praising the Turkish fundamentalist movement, which aims to have an Islamic regime in Turkey.

Iranian Consul-General Mohammad Reza Rasheed was criticised for supporting Mr. Bagheri's speech.

But Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi said Saturday that both diplomats were in Tehran to attend a "gathering," and would be returning to Turkey, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. He did not say when that would be.

However, Mr. Boroujerdi added that Mr. Bagheri's diplomatic tenure in Turkey had come to an end. He said the ambassador would be returning to Iran shortly after winding up his affairs in Ankara.

Turkish opposition parties had called for Mr. Bagheri's expulsion for his role in the rally, where pictures of the leaders of the militant groups Hamas and Hizbollah decorated the hall.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry had given a protest note to Mr. Bagheri for his speech, but never declared him persona non grata to force him to leave.

Mr. Bagheri had rejected the protest, and Tehran said

the Turkish government had no right to reprimand the ambassador.

Turkey is now governed by a centre-right coalition led by the Islamic Welfare Party.

Disturbed by the rally where others called for an Islamic regime, Turkish generals sent tanks marching through the town in a show of strength. The military establishment sees itself as the guarantor of Turkey's secular system.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday the two men had left Turkey.

"They are no longer in Turkey," a Turkish official said. "The ambassador has not officially notified the ministry that he was leaving Turkey," he continued, but did not give further details.

Mr. Bagheri said Islam would triumph throughout the world in a reference to the Islamic revolution in Iran, during a "Jerusalem night" organised on Jan. 31 by Bekir Yildiz, the pro-Islamic mayor of Sincan, a suburb of Ankara.

Mr. Rashid reportedly made remarks backing Islamic law in an attempt to support the ambassador.

Secularism is one of the key tenets of the modern Turkish state and the remarks, hot on the heels of a recent series of pro-Islamic remarks by members of the Welfare Party, whipped up a storm of protest from secular groups.

A political analyst said that the Turkish government had not ordered the expulsion of the two Iranian diplomats, but had instead asked the Iranian government to recall them in order to avoid "damaging ties between Ankara and Tehran."



CHARLES IN KUWAIT: Britain's Prince Charles plays an educational board game with Kuwaiti children on Saturday at the British Council. The prince was on a two-day official visit to Kuwait which next week celebrates its 1961 independence from Britain and also its 1991 liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation (Reuters photo)

## UAE invites 50 defence ministers for arms show

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has invited 50 defence ministers for next month's international arms show, which it describes as the biggest ground weapons exhibition in the world.

The official daily Al Itihad said Saturday 725 companies from 43 countries will participate in the March 16-20 show in Abu Dhabi.

"We have invited more than 50 defence ministers. They will have the opportunity to see the exhibited arms and enjoy a neutral climate to discuss and reach deals," the paper quoted Brigadier General Sultan Bakhi Al Suwaidi of the UAE armed forces as saying.

The armed forces are the sponsors of the biannual event, which will include weapons deals for the UAE and other countries, organisers said.

More than 50,000 officials and military and civilian delegates are expected to come for the show, which will cover tanks, frigates, artillery, missiles, guns, radars and other defence equipment.

The United States is again dominating the show, sending nearly 100 companies. The other key exhibitors are France, Britain, Russia, South Africa, Italy, Germany, Netherlands and Brazil.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and other Asian countries will also participate in the exhibition, which will go on Internet for the first time. It was not immediately clear if Iran would again be among the exhibitors. The show coincides with plans by the UAE, and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council to bolster their armies in deals expected by Gen. Suwaidi to exceed \$80 billion over the coming five years.

## Suspect in Americans' murder in S. Arabia not charged yet

DUBAI (AP) — An imprisoned Filipino suspect in the murder of an American couple in Saudi Arabia has not been charged with the crime or allowed visits by embassy officials, an official at the Philippines embassy said Saturday.

Bernie Morante, 26, has been in jail since the Dec. 8 murder of Berry Bailey, 50 and his wife Mary Ann. He was arrested while trying to board a flight to the Philippines.

Philippines diplomats have not been allowed to see Morante despite several requests and he has not yet been charged with the murder, the embassy official said in a telephone interview from the Saudi capital, Riyadh. He spoke under customary rules of anonymity.

Morante's wife in Manila has not yet been granted a visa she requested in December to fly to Saudi Arabia to visit her husband, said the official.

It is not known when Morante could be charged. Saudi officials do not comment on such cases to reporters.

Morante's father Rogelio, 59, who has been working in Saudi Arabia since 1983, has seen him twice in Riyadh's Malaz prison.

The senior Morante said in a telephone interview from Saudi Arabia that he and his son were not allowed by prison guards to discuss the murder.

Instead, they mainly talked about Morante's wife and two small children back home, who are suffering from a serious skin disease.

Morante's father said he plans to visit his son once more before he returns to the Philippines for good in March.

"My heart is very heavy. I gave my notice before all this happened and now I am forced to leave even though my heart is here with my son," he told the Associated Press.

The senior Morante said that his son's wife has not allowed the rest of the family in Manila to see Morante's children since her husband was imprisoned.

"We are all very sad because now Bernie's wife won't let my family see the children any more," he said.

Bailey, former public works chief in the Liberty county town of Dayton, Texas, moved to Saudi Arabia four years ago to work as an airport systems manager.

He was Morante's supervisor at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, where the accused worked as a computer operator in the facilities and utilities department.

U.S. embassy spokesman Samir Kouttab said Bailey had identified his assailant before he died in hospital.

Bailey had planned to return to the United States next summer, U.S. officials said. The couple have grown children in Texas.

U.S. diplomats have said the murders were not politically motivated but due to a personal grudge.

Security for the 20,000 Americans, including 5,000 troops, in Saudi Arabia has been tightened since 24 servicemen were killed in bombings in November 1995 and in June last year.

## Enough of 'empty' slogans, declares Iran presidential candidate

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian presidential candidate criticised his fellow politicians here on Saturday for issuing what he called "empty" slogans, saying Iranian people had enough of the "lies."

"People are tired of empty slogans and lies. Our people are fed up with words not followed by action," said former Culture Minister Mohammad Khatami, who is running for June's presidential elections.

Politicians "should present a tangible programme. Our slogans and promises should be possible to put into practice," he said in a meeting with members of a women's group, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

Mr. Khatami, an Islamic left-winger, is one of the three major presidential hopefuls. The other two are parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, a conservative backed by the ruling Shiite Muslim clergy, and former intelligence minister and a hardliner, Mohammad Mohammadi Reysari.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will have served two successive four-year terms and is not allowed under the constitution to seek a new mandate.

A senior judicial adviser, Reza Zavarei, is also seeking the post, but his candidacy has not received much media coverage.

Meanwhile, a former member of Iran's main armed opposition group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq returned from a 17-year exile on Friday to enter the presidential fray.

Ali Farasati told AFP in a telephone conversation on Saturday that he had spent seven years in Iran and then 10 years in France.

He said he had once served as a member of the Mujahedeen's central council and their representative in the United States. But Mr. Farasati broke with the group, which is hated by the Islamic regime here and outlawed, in 1991.

"I decided to return here to prove the opposite of what is being said about Iran abroad and take part, if possible, in the presidential election," he said, stressing that he faced "no security problems" on arriving.

"The Interior Ministry assured me that I could come back here safely," Mr. Farasati said, saying his return had been coordinated with the authorities through the Iranian embassy in Paris.

However, the Iranian media has not announced his return. The Mujahedeen broke with the Islamic leadership soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution and launched a bloody campaign which left dozens of Iranian officials dead in early 1980s, prompting the authorities to hit back.

Iranian security forces have killed scores of alleged Mujahedeen guerrillas in clashes in the past weeks. The rebel group is presently based in Iraq.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egypt hands over Jordanian to UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Egypt has handed over to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) a Jordanian accused of embezzling more than 12 million dirhams (\$3.26 million), officials said on Saturday. Ismail Ibrahim Agha was handed over to the UAE authorities on Friday after he was seized at Cairo airport, said Ibrahim Abdul Manan, director of the international criminal cooperation department at the UAE Interior Ministry. "We have not faced any problem in getting this man back. The Egyptian authorities were very quick and cooperative," Mr. Manan told AFP. He declined to elaborate on Agha's charge, but financial sources said the Jordanian had embezzled the sum from a UAE bank. Egyptian security men arrested Agha at Cairo airport after receiving a request from the UAE.

### Israeli held without bail on fraud charges

BOSTON (AFP) — A federal court on Friday ordered an Israeli national accused of securities fraud held without bail for alleged participation in insider trading of his company's stock. Emanuel Pinez, who maintains residences in Israel, Switzerland and Canada, was arrested Feb. 14 after he allegedly admitted to members of the board of directors of his firm that he altered inventory records and had conspired with some customers to conceal his scheme to defraud. Pinez was fired last week from Centennial Technologies, a manufacturer of computer cards and parts, whose stock was the top performer on the New York stock exchange in 1996, closing the year at \$55 a share, according to the criminal complaint. Since Jan. 1 Centennial's stock fell from to \$16.50 per share. An investigation revealed that on Feb. 7 Pinez actively engaged in buying and selling a large number of the company's stock option contracts. In essence, the charges claim, he engaged in heavily leveraged bets that the price of Centennial stock would fall.

## Security Council to debate Cyprus issue next month

NICOSIA (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council's permanent members will hold a mid-March meeting devoted to Cyprus, after six months of heightened tension on the divided island, the Russian ambassador here said.

Ambassador Georgy Muratov was cited by the official Cypriot News Agency (CNA) as saying the meeting, organised by Russia, would examine the outlook for a peaceful settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Beside Russia, the other permanent Security Council members are Britain, China, France and the United States.

Cyprus has been divided

since Turkey invaded the northern third of the island in 1974 after a military coup in the capital, Nicosia, aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Turkey, Greece and Britain, the former colonial power here, were guarantors of Cyprus' independence when it became a state in 1960.

Intercommunal strife between Greek and Turkish Cypriots predated the invasion, however, and U.N. peacekeepers have been deployed here since 1964.

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official recently visited Cyprus, Turkey and Greece to hold talks on the issue.

Asked whether Turkey has invited Russia to enter into long-term military cooperation in return for cancelling its arms deal with Cyprus, Mr. Muratov said, according to CNA, "there is no chance that this very important deal will be cancelled."

Cyprus, which is predominantly Greek Cypriot, announced in January the purchase of 20 Russian S-300 ground-to-air missiles, which are capable of striking targets in southern Turkish airspace.

Ankara, which has about 35,000 soldiers stationed in the north where most of the Turkish Cypriot minority now lives, retaliated with a threat to attack the Greek

sector of the island if the missiles were deployed.

Cyprus has said the missiles would be delivered in 16 months.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides told Athens Thursday that Cyprus is determined to "continue to acquire high-tech arms systems" to give it the "most effective defence" while Turkish troops are occupying the north.

He said Cyprus was ready to open face-to-face talks as soon as the preparations have been completed that will ensure their success.

Last year, five people were killed in clashes between the two communities in the buffer zone.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
14:00 ...Cartoon — Jonny Quest  
14:30 ...Cartoon — Problem Child  
15:00 ...French Programmes  
16:00 ...Doc. — Global Family  
16:30 ...Energy Express  
17:00 ...News Flash  
17:02 ...Doc. — Our World, Their World  
17:30 ...All Our Children  
18:00 ...French Programmes  
19:30 ...News Headlines  
19:35 ...Comedy — Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00 ...Doc. — World Echo  
20:30 ...Babylon-5  
21:10 ...Doc. — Tycoons  
22:00 ...News in English  
22:25 ...Hot Shots  
23:00 ...Sisters  
23:59 ...Yes Minister?

### PRAYER TIMES

04:15 ...Fajr  
05:32 ...Sunrise  
11:42 ...Dhuhr  
15:10 ...Asr  
17:52 ...Maghreb  
19:10 ...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
The Kingdom will remain today under the effect of the cold air mass and the depression affecting the region, thus it will be cold, cloudy, and rainy with a chance of snow falling over hilly areas 900 metres above sea level and winds westerly active. In Aqaba, rainy weather conditions will prevail, winds southerly active and seas

rough.  
Min./Max. temp.  
Amman .....02/06  
Aqaba .....09/16  
Deserts .....02/09  
Jordan Valley .....08/16

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 06, Aqaba 16 Humidity readings: Amman 99 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Rawhi Sulstar .....856457  
Dr. Fadel Al Khatteb .....865456  
Dr. Gazi Abu Sheikh .....752405  
Dr. Moukhlis Halaseh .....819220  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nairokh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Fahid Jaber .....984549  
Al Quds pharmacy .....—  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Gazi Ta'ameh .....250080  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police .....192.621111.637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Dept. ....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
J. Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Co. ....636381  
RJ Flight Information .....08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/332  
Khalidi Maternity .....642811/6  
Akileh Maternity .....642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali .....666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3  
Al-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital .....(09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....(02)247100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....(03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 .....Bombay (RJ)  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:50 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
09:15 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:50 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:05 .....Paris (RJ)  
17:45 .....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
17:45 .....London (RJ)  
18:10 .....Athens (RJ)  
19:30 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:30 .....Tunis (RJ)  
19:40 .....Graz (add) (RJ)  
19:55 .....Rome (RJ)  
21:45 .....Vienna (RJ)  
00:10 .....Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:20 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
12:40 .....Bahrain (GF)  
15:00 .....Doha (Q7)  
15:20 .....Moscow (SU)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
20:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
23:10 .....Istanbul (TK)  
23:50 .....London, Beirut (BA)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:00 .....Aqaba, Graz (add) (RJ)  
09:40 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00 .....Tunis (RJ)  
11:05 .....Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)  
11:30 .....Rome (RJ)  
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:20 .....London (RJ)  
12:20 .....Athens (RJ)  
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
20:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:15 .....Damascus (RJ)  
22:10 .....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:45 .....Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:30 .....London (KJ)  
07:00 .....Beirut (ME)  
07:15 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
07:35 .....Damascus, London (BA)  
16:15 .....Doha (Q7)  
16:35 .....Moscow (SU)  
21:25 .....Cairo (MS)  
02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
06:00 .....Istanbul (TK)

### Royal Wing (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW) (departing from Marka Airport)  
20:30 .....Aqaba (RW)

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .....8:00 am every Monday  
Arr. Damascus .....5:00 pm every Monday  
Dep. Damascus .....7:30 am every Sunday  
Arr. Amman .....5:00 pm every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....550/550  
Banana (imported) .....1000/900  
Cabbage .....90/50  
Carrot .....160/120  
Cauliflower .....340/180  
Cucumber (large) .....180/120  
Cucumber (small) .....280/180  
Eggplant .....230/140  
Fava beans .....850/700  
Garlic .....1150/950  
Grape fruit .....180/100  
Lemon .....400/320  
Marrow (large) .....300/150  
Marrow (small) .....500/300  
Onion (green) .....180/140  
Onion (dry) .....200/130  
Orange .....450/250  
Pars .....900/700  
Pepper (hot) .....280/120  
Pepper (sweet) .....380/250  
Potato .....340/150  
Radish .....90/50  
Spinach .....250/150  
String beans .....850/500  
Tomato .....280/150



## 'Work permits issued to foreigners halved'

AMMAN (J.T.) — In 1996, work permits issued to non-Jordanian workers amounted to less than half of those issued in 1995, according to the Ministry of Labour.

Minister Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh said Saturday that the ministry issued 42,976 work permits to non-Jordanian workers last year, down from 94,333 in 1995, thus strictly complying with measures announced by the Cabinet last year to cut the number of guest workers in Jordan.

acquire work permits through the Jordanian embassy in Cairo before they are allowed entry to the Kingdom.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Shakhaneh maintained that over 280,000 Egyptians are working in Jordan; the majority, he added, are residing in the country illegally.

Dr. Shakhaneh stated that the Ministry of Labour has issued a three-month grace period during which Egyptian workers can arrange for legal guest worker status. Following the end of the April deadline, all workers found in violation of these regulations will be deported and the ministry will take legal action against employers who violate the labour rules.

The Kingdom is also implementing a labour-related agreement concluded last year with the Cairo government which stipulates that Egyptian workers

## Islamists attempt to create JMA coalition

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamists members of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) general assembly are conducting negotiations with Baathists and Nasserites to create a coalition headed by an Islamist to run for the JMA council and presidential elections scheduled to take place in April.

The Islamic movement, which has virtually controlled the association for the past six years when former Islamist Dr. Ishaq Maraga became the first Islamist to win the presidency for two terms, has managed, according to analysts, to infiltrate the ranks of other popular competing forces.

Baathists and Nasserites could, with the support of leftists and Arab nationalists, form the only strong competing coalition against the Islamists in the syndicate.

"Islamist negotiations are facilitated by the lack of a unified stand between leftists, Baathists and former Baath activists," one analyst said.

Heading the possible coalition, Islamists have agreed on Dr. Basem Dajjani, incumbent president of the JMA and member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), as their candidate for his second two-year term in the presidential elections.

Dr. Dajjani, who has not yet been formally nominated, confirmed to the Jordan Times that he was, indeed, running. He also affirmed that negotiations are currently taking place between the Islamists and Baathists on the one hand and Islamists and Nasserites on the other.

"A coalition is being cooked," Dr. Dajjani said, stressing that "lists will only be formed at the last minute."

To oppose such a coalition, a grouping representing leftists, Arab nationalists, centrists, Faah (a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation) and independent doctors is forming.

The grouping, which names itself "The Professional List" (PL), is headed by Dr. Mohammed Oran, secretary general of the Arab Land Party, who said that the list is more professional than political.

Dr. Oran, who is also running for the presidency, explained to the Jordan Times that in the list "no one political movement overshadows the rest."

Although he declined to name the doctors who will be running on the list, Dr. Oran, stressed that the list will include different political affiliations as well as independent doctors and will be formed today with two avowed purposes: the first is to join all the different national movements which have been fragmented in the past and the second is to "change and reform."

Reports of financial corruption at the JMA were published last year, when one member of the JMA council, the first doctor to speak openly about the issue, resigned, citing corruption as his main reason for doing so.

The prosecutor general and a committee formed by the JMA are currently investigating the issue. Their first findings, which were announced by Dr. Dajjani in January, showed that while no doctors were involved in embezzlement, certain amounts had indeed been embezzled.

Last August, the government appointed a committee to investigate the case and it blamed inefficient financial management, failure to abide by accounting rules, corruption and abuse of funds for the large loss incurred by the JMA pension fund.

Nominations opened last Thursday and will close in early March.

## Mayor of Zarqa released on bail

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Zarqa Mayor Mustafa Fayad, ordered detained on Wednesday on charges of slandering Parliament members, was Saturday released on bail, judicial sources said.

Dr. Fayad, who is currently undergoing treatment at the Zarqa Government Hospital, was ordered detained for 15 days by the Zarqa prosecutor, after allegedly slandering Parliament deputies last week in an interview with a weekly newspaper.

Zarqa Prosecutor Azzam Obaidat officially accepted a third request to release Dr. Fayad on bail," Zarqa Deputy Fayad Jarar said.

He told the Jordan Times Saturday that he personally volunteered to secure Dr. Fayad's bail.

Dr. Fayad was admitted to the hospital on Thursday, suffering from high blood pressure.

"I informed Dr. Fayad of my decision and he accepted it, however he did express anger over his detention in Beirun prison," Deputy Jarar said.

Dr. Fayad was interviewed, alongside his predecessor Yasser Omari in the Islamist weekly Al-Sabeel, and quoted as saying "three-fourths of the deputies are liars," and "I do not like the whole Parliament and that is my opinion."

But according to Deputy Jarar, Dr. Fayad's words were misinterpreted in the interview.

"He informed me that his intention was not to slander the deputies, but rather that

what he meant was that all deputies make mistakes and only make promises," the deputy said.

In an interview with Al-Ra'i Arabic daily, Dr. Fayad denied the statements attributed to him.

"What I actually said in the interview was that three-fourths of the deputies in the world are liars," he said.

Dr. Fayad's comments in the interview, which covered the municipalities' performances during his and Mr. Omari's administrations, came in response to accusations made by Islamist Deputy Bassam Emoush (Zarqa) against Dr. Fayad in two parliamentary sessions.

Deputy Emoush charged that the Zarqa Municipality had been extorting money from citizens and that Dr. Fayad had bribed a reporter by giving him a kiosk in return for news coverage.

Some members of the Zarqa Municipal Council threatened to resign Friday if the mayor was not released on bail.

According to the judicial source, Dr. Fayad is expected to appear at the Court of First Instance within the next few weeks.

In other developments in the case, Al-Sabeel Director General Saoud Abu Mahfouz, and Editorial Advisor Hilmi Asmar are expected to be questioned by Prosecutor Obaidat in regards to the interview, he said.

## Kabariti calls for joint efforts to remedy unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday stated that the government is aware of problems facing the agricultural sector but stressed that the government cannot independently proffer solutions.

During a Senate session, the prime minister urged the private sector to join the government in addressing these issues and stated that, in order to cut down on unemployment, public and private sectors ought to jointly encourage citizens to return to work on the land and in trades.

"There are Jordanians who desire to work in agriculture but lack incentives and we need to create incentives so that farm and landowners employ them," the prime minister said.

"Various sectors in Jordan face challenges but the government cannot discover every solution on its own."

Mr. Kabariti also cited the marketing of Jordanian products abroad as one of the main issues facing the Kingdom.

Solutions to these problems require a comprehensive vision and encouraging people to return to the land and work in trades instead of waiting for an office job, he said.

The prime minister also maintained a need for the country to place controls on work permits issued to foreigners.

He stated that the Ministry of Labour recently discovered that non-Jordanians with agricultural work permits have been found to be working in other sectors.

The senators debated a proposal, forwarded by Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh, regarding an extra charge on non-Jordanians employed as gardeners and maids.

The minister suggested that a JD25 per annum charge be imposed as a work permit fee for non-Jordanians employed in the agricultural sector.

The current fee stands at JD 10.

In presenting his proposal, Dr. Shakhaneh maintained that there are over 120,000 unemployed citizens in the Kingdom while there are 350,000 foreigners employed.

Therefore, he stated, it is incumbent to raise fees on non-Jordanians with agricultural work permits have been found to be working in other sectors.

The Senate reaffirmed its position in regards to a draft law on civil courts. Contrary to the views expressed by the Lower House of Parliament, the Senate opposes a move by the Council of Ministers to set court fees.

It also endorsed three draft amendments to current labour laws, the State Security Court and elections as by the Lower House.

The Senate endorsed a draft law regarding the Royal Institution for Charity and Development and a draft law on the Balqa Applied University.

Dr. Shakhaneh described the proposal as part of a programme for addressing unemployment in the country, while controlling the local labour market.

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## Kingdom affected by heavy rains, some snowfall

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heavy rain and strong winds swept Jordan and other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean region Saturday, while local officials in Ajloun and other northern districts reported disturbances of main roads and telephone lines.

The Department of Meteorology maintained that a low depression centred over Cyprus will continue to effect the Kingdom with increased rain, hail and snow expected in different parts of the country through Monday.

The cold weather is expected to diminish by Tuesday morning, it said.

A department official told the Jordan Times that winds accompanying the downpour, ranged from 80 to 100 kilometres per hour and that the storm will continue Sunday with temperatures rising to a maximum of six degrees during the day and dropping to around three at night.

In some parts of the Kingdom, snow reached 30 centimetres, mainly concentrated in northern Ajloun, the official said.

A light snowfall will be falling on highlands over 1,000 metres above sea level, he said.

Ajloun Governor Abdullah Hisban said that road clearing equipment, provided by the Civil Defence Department, the Ministry of Public Works and the Jordanian Armed Forces were at work re-opening the main roads linking the city of Ajloun with the rest of the governorate.

He further stated that teams of workers were busy restoring electricity and telephone lines in Ajloun but noted that until Saturday evening most of the secondary roads remained closed.

Jerash Governor Khamis Abu Salim confirmed that some of the main roads in his governorate were blocked by snow and that he was supervising the work of teams through a central operations room.

In Salt, at least one school located in the district of Salaleh was ordered closed as the school yard and other facilities were inundated by at least 30 centimetres of water.

Tafilah Governor Nayef Nejjad requested that residents living in low areas and wadis move to safer ground, stating that these areas will be flooded with melting snow from the surrounding mountains.

## Court ratifies woman's death sentence

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation returned the case of a man and a woman, accused of murder, to the Criminal Court, ratifying only the death sentence passed against the woman, judicial sources said.

Raya Musa, 35, and Hassan Faleh, 45, were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court in November after being found guilty of poisoning Ms. Musa's husband Ahmad Mohammad Mire'eh on Jan. 3, 1996.

According to court documents, the two defendants, who both worked in the Deir Ala'a Health Centre, had been engaged in an extra-marital affair since the beginning of 1995.

Four months prior to the murder, the court documents said, Mr. Faleh, a father of four, asked Ms. Musa, a mother of nine, to divorce her husband and marry him.

Knowing that her husband would not accept a divorce, the two decided to kill him, the court said.

The two divided their roles with Mr. Faleh purchasing rat poison while Ms. Musa purchased sleeping pills, the court said.

The night of the murder, transcripts said, jointly with the rat poison, Ms. Musa dissolved three sleeping pills in a cup of tea and served it to her husband, while Mr. Faleh waited outside the house.

In its ruling last week, the Court of Cassation asked the Criminal Court to retry Mr. Faleh as "he did not actually poison Mr. Mire'eh, but was merely waiting for the results."

Ms. Musa's case will be transferred to the Chief Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice, the prime minister and finally His Majesty King Hussein for endorsement of the verdict.

Last year 23 people, including five women, were sentenced to death in the Kingdom. Ten people were executed in the same year for various crimes.

In the past five years, according to judicial sources, two women have been executed in Jordan.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court Sunday sentenced two men to a 15-year prison sentence with temporary hard labour after they were declared guilty of killing a 38-year old man in Jabal Jofeh.

Ziad Mohammad Rashid, 32, and Akram Hamed, 25, were found guilty of killing Hassan Ali Mohammad Aqeel on May 9, 1996.

According to the charge sheet, the victim had had an affair with Mr. Hamed's wife Jamileh Ahmad in the beginning of January and four months later he divorced her.

On the evening of the incident, the court said, the two defendants were riding together in Mr. Rashid's car and saw Ms. Aqeel riding with Mr. Aqeel in his pick-up truck in Jabal Jofeh and blocked the latter's vehicle with their car.

The two defendants' descended from their car each carrying a switch blade and approached the victim as he descended from his car.

"Mr. Aqeel, who was stabbed once in the chest and bled by one of the defendants, started running away," the court said.

The two defendants followed him "to make sure that he died, returned to their car and fled the scene," according to the court.

The two men each pleaded not guilty in court last year and upon testifying in July, each claimed that the other committed the actual stabbing.

"Since the two were carrying switch blades and they both ran after the victim to make sure of his death, the court considered that both of them intended to kill Mr. Aqeel," the court stated.

The court tribunal comprised of Justices Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq, Miflch Mubaidin and Ismael Hmouz, also amended charges of premeditation to those of manslaughter.

"It was clear to the court that the two did not plot to kill Mr. Aqeel as the prosecution charged, but rather killed him when they saw him in his pick-up truck," the court said.

Both verdicts will be reviewed by a higher court within 30 days.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**ARA welcomes university**  
AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Fayez Khasawneh Saturday welcomed the establishment of an American university in the Aqaba governorate, affirming that the ARA has assigned a suitable site upon which to build the university. Dr. Khasawneh stated that the construction of such a university in Aqaba will enhance the development of the region and provide an opportunity for Jordanians to study at the non-profit private university.

**Spanish delegation visits RSS**  
AMMAN (Petra) — A Spanish parliamentary delegation headed by Miguel Martinez met with Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Vice President Said Aloush with objectives and duties. The delegation and Dr. Aloush discussed cooperation between the RSS and the European scientific research institutions.

**OBITUARY**  
The Halasa family in Jordan announces with great sorrow the passing of

**Laila Jamil Wahbeh**  
wife of Doctor Adnan Hanna Halasa

who died on Feb. 21, 1997. Prayers will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church, Sweifieh today (Sunday) at 2 p.m.

The remains of Mrs. Halasa will be flown to Beirut Monday morning for burial in her hometown, Jdaidet Marjayoun, Lebanon.

Condolences for women in the morning and men in the evening at the home of the late Mrs. Halasa in Jabal Amman, near the Guest Palace on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Feb. 26, 27, 28.

Tel.: 00962 (6) - 662076  
Fax: 00962 (6) - 646464  
cables: Dr. Adnan Halasa, Jabal Amman, near the Guest Palace.

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times offer their sincere condolences over the passing of

**Laila Adnan Halasa**  
mother of their dear friend and former colleague Serene Halasa

## What's Going On

### CONCERT

"Scintillating Sounds of Opera" with the participation of Barbara Prust and Lexi Hadadina (soprano) accompanied by Mohammad Sidiq (piano) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE AND PERFORMANCE

Lecture and performance by French artist Francoise LeGouvan at the French Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Works by artists Chao Song-Yun, Li Chi-Mao, and Shen Chen at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Art, until Feb. 25.

Works by artist Amanda Shehadeh at the French Cultural Centre, until March 6.

Display of Jordan River Designs Products, Jabal Amman (Tel. 613081/2) until Feb. 28.

Art exhibition by Nahiha Salim at Orient Gallery, Isam Ajlouni St., Shmeisani, until Feb. 28.

Bani Hamida exhibition/sale of handicrafts (rugs, cushions, runners, and wall-hangings, Jabal Amman (Tel. 658696/7), until Feb. 28.

Works by contemporary Arab artists entitled "The New Collection" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, (Tel. 643251/2), until Feb. 27.

## Investment meeting to convene in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — In a bid to attract Italian investments to Jordan, a meeting has been scheduled to convene in the Italian city of Milan on Feb. 27, organised by the Embassy of Jordan in Rome, the Italian Foreign Trade Ministry and the Italian Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Mazen Marji from the Investment-Promotion Corporation announced the event Wednesday, explaining that the seminar aims to describe investment opportunities and climate in Jordan and to present information about economic development in Jordan as well as projected industrial schemes.

A large number of both Jordanian and Italian businesspersons and economists are expected to attend the two-day meeting, also designed to promote cooperation between Italy and Jordan in economic and trade fields, he noted.

Dr. Marji described the Milan event as the first comprehensive Jordanian investment and economic seminar of its kind to be held in Italy.

He stated that a report reviewing all investor incentives and Jordanian laws facilitating investments will be studied by the participants.

Included in the event will be a series of meetings between Jordanian and Italian entrepreneurs who are also slated to visit Italian factories and business centres.

Last week, the Amman Chamber of Industry discussed how Jordan might better attract Japanese investors to the Kingdom.

Several Japanese experts addressed the meeting citing examples of successful Japanese investments in South East Asian countries.

The meeting, organised by the Investment-Promotion Corporation, heard board member Dr. Zaki Ayoubi outline measures and legislation intended to encourage investments in the Kingdom.

He said the meeting was a follow-up to a Jordanian economic week held in Japan last year.

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# Zaire rebel chief says attack delayed for talks

BUKAVU, Zaire (R) — Zaire rebel leader Laurent Kabila said rebels delayed their offensive as a sign of goodwill during talks in South Africa but he would only negotiate on the issue of President Mobutu Sese Seko relinquishing power.

Mr. Kabila told Reuters in the eastern Zairean city of Bukavu Friday night a ceasefire was not yet an issue in talks and if there was no progress rebels would fight on to force Kinshasa to negotiate.

"We have temporarily stopped our intention of launching our counter-offensive during this time of negotiations (in South Africa) as a sign of goodwill," Mr. Kabila said. "We're willing to sustain this goodwill for a few days."

"But if there is no advance on this question of negotiations we will be forced to launch our offensive...It's very important for us to push those people (Zaire) to the negotiating table."

Asked with whom he would be willing to negotiate from the Zairean government side, the rebel chief said: "Anyone who has in their hands the power to make important decisions. For us the only issue to be negotiated is the stepping down of Mobutu."

Mr. Kabila said the talks

in Cape Town were at "preliminary stages."

Asked whether they were bound to fail because both sides had already ruled out the other's demands, Mr. Kabila said the main problem was those in power in Zaire had no political agenda.

"The bottom line is they must relinquish power — either through negotiation or by being defeated militarily. The choice is theirs," he said.

"At this point a ceasefire is not an issue of negotiations. They continue to lose territory. This is why they might want a ceasefire. Nothing can help them. The international community will ultimately not come to their rescue," Mr. Kabila added.

"Everyone must acknowledge what Mr. Mobutu has done to this country...It's not the right of the international community to support in any way a government which has been imposed on its people, unelected, for 31 years."

Mr. Kabila, whose forces have seized a stretch of eastern Zaire more than 1,000 kilometres long since October, said rebels were during the talks concentrating on consolidating their territory.

But he said his forces captured Poko town in the northeast last Sunday and were

encountering the strongest resistance from mercenaries — French, Serbs and former Rwandan Hutu troops and militiamen.

Zaire said Friday its army would not relent in an offensive to retake territory from rebels, despite tentative moves towards negotiations with the insurgents.

"The army is determined to pursue the war until final victory," Defence Minister Likulia Bolongo said in a statement.

"The Zaire Armed Forces who received orders to fight and recover captured territories and pacify the country have up to today received no counter-orders to stop fighting," he said.

The United States confirmed Friday South Africa was leading proxy talks in a search for peace in Zaire. South African officials remained silent about progress towards a face-to-face meeting in Cape Town between Zaire government and rebel representatives.

Zaire long ruled out talks with Tutsi-led rebels it accuses of waging a proxy war in its eastern provinces for the neighbouring states of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. All three deny involvement in the war, which started in October.

Aliing President Mobutu sent a trusted envoy to

South Africa this week for talks but the emissary denied Thursday that any meeting was planned with rebels.

General Likulia acknowledged his ministry took part in Wednesday's exploratory talks in Kinshasa during a visit of four African ministers but added:

"Negotiations are a political move and should not amount to recapitulation," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mobutu arrived at his French Riviera holiday mansion Friday.

French officials said Mr. Mobutu's private plane touched down at Nice Airport at seven p.m. (1800 GMT) from Gbadolite, his home town in Zaire. He was expected to stay in France for four days.

Mr. Mobutu, who was underwent surgery for prostate cancer in Switzerland in August and convalesced at his French residence, returned to France for three weeks last month for medical tests.

It was not known if he would meet French officials or other envoys at his coastal mansion in Roquebrune Cap-Martin as he did during previous stays when several African leaders consulted about the crisis in Zaire.



President Boris Yeltsin (left) is all smiles as he shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in his Kremlin office Friday. Mrs. Albright said after the talks that the Russian President was 'in charge' and actively engaged in discussions on NATO enlargement (Reuters photo)

## Albright ends Europe tour; NATO wrangling continues

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright left for Asia after a week-long European tour that added momentum to NATO's plans to expand eastward despite Russia's stubborn resistance.

Mrs. Albright said she made important progress in breaking down Russia's hostility to former Soviet-bloc states in Eastern Europe joining NATO.

But she acknowledged that, after a hectic week of talks in Rome, Bonn, Paris, Brussels, London and Moscow, that there was no breakthrough.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who is due to meet NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana in Brussels Sunday, repeated Moscow's opposition but said he wanted to "minimise complications" if NATO's plan went ahead.

Mrs. Albright said it was far from certain that a deal could be reached before a NATO summit in Madrid in July to decide which ex-Communist states to bring in as new members. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are favourites for early entry.

But her meeting with President Boris Yeltsin may have succeeded, at least insofar as it kept negotiations going after weeks of increasingly angry words from Moscow.

"She brought proposals which may not be significant on their own or change the nature of relations, but the West has shown it is trying to accommodate Russia's concerns," said Andrei Korunov of the Russian Science Foundation think tank. "Both sides have shown they want to keep the door open to further negotiations."

Mrs. Albright and her NATO allies considered various proposals during the week which could go some way to meeting Russia's concerns.

They included reducing conventional weapons in Europe by modifying a 1990 treaty limiting the numbers of such arms and where they can be placed. This proposal addressed

Russian fears of a NATO weapons build-up on its borders.

Mrs. Albright also suggested creating a joint NATO-Russian brigade, mainly for peacekeeping purposes, to show goodwill, though the Kremlin said it was unimpressed by the idea.

Meanwhile, former Kremlin security tsar Alexander Lebed questioned Friday the point of a joint NATO-Russian brigade as proposed by Mrs. Albright.

The West was so worried about trying to calm Russian fears about NATO's eastward expansion that it sometimes lost common sense, he said during a visit to Geneva.

"What are the objectives to be pursued by this military unit? Who will this brigade fight against?" Gen. Lebed asked, adding "this brigade is like a piano in the bushes."

Gen. Lebed, a strong presidential contender if ill health forces Mr. Yeltsin from office, said Russia and NATO had nothing to fear from each other any more and they needed new partnership ties.

He said NATO wanted closer ties with Russia because it saw Moscow as indispensable for Europe's security, but he questioned the need for such a powerful military alliance in the post-cold war era.

"NATO is a powerful organisation but this powerful military machine is not needed any more. Russia is not an enemy of the West any more and it will never become one again," he said.

"It would be advisable to stop and think. This structure (NATO) must be transformed."

There was, nonetheless, a breath of cold war diplomacy about Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit Friday to Russia's Nuclear Missile Command Centre.

He declared that Russia's atomic arsenal was in good working order and he warned that it would be "shortsighted" of European defence planners to ignore this.

Mrs. Albright, trying to counter fears among Russians that accepting NATO expansion would be a sign of weakness by the Kremlin, said: "We are no longer in a situation of you versus us. We are all on the same side."

She also said that Mr. Yeltsin, 66, now recovering from the pneumonia that laid him low after last November's heart operation, seemed to be "very much in charge."

She gave Mr. Yeltsin a letter from President Bill Clinton, who is due to meet him in Helsinki on March 20-21, covering NATO expansion and other European security questions.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said: "There's a lot of hard work left...Part of that hard work is reflected in the correspondence the president exchanged with President Yeltsin."

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## Albright cites North's 'hurting' as factor in Korea peace

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Saturday prospects for a Korean peace treaty hinged in part on North Korea's "hurting" and said U.S. forces should stay in South Korea for now.

Donning a cap bearing the inscription "in front of them all," the motto of U.S. troops serving here, Mrs. Albright toured an observation post at the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas and shared coffee with U.S. soldiers at a mess hall.

Answering questions from servicemen, the secretary of state said it was "very hard to predict" whether a peace treaty could be achieved between the two Koreas.

"It depends on how much the North Koreans are hurting and on whether they are willing to realise that a peaceful solution to this division is the best way to go," Mrs. Albright said.

North Korea Friday agreed to attend a briefing in New York on March 5 on a proposal to hold peace talks between the two Koreas, with Washington and Beijing playing a support role.

Pyongyang's move towards peace talks was announced after the United States and South Korea agreed to provide food aid to stave off widespread starvation in North Korea.

U.S. officials have not linked food aid to Pyongyang's participation at the preliminary talks but they privately agree that the food shortages helped persuade the North Koreans to come on board.

"Mrs. Albright also told American soldiers that the 37,000-soldier U.S. force enforcing the tenuous truce from the 1950-1953 Korean War should remain."

"From what we can see and the instability that we see in North Korea, I think we should stay where we are," she said.

The visit to what she described as the "last outpost of the cold war" capped a day of talks with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-Ha that U.S. officials said helped the allies coordinate their approach to North Korea.

"Nothing that North Korea does can drive a wedge between the United States and the Republic of Korea," Mrs. Albright asserted.

In Seoul earlier, Mr. Yoo said North Korea's willingness to attend the preliminary talks would help avoid an armed clash on the peninsula.

"We have to avoid any active and armed clashes between the two sides on the Korean peninsula," Mr. Yoo said. The briefing next month will help reduce tensions and establish a structure for formal talks, he added.

Talks also focussed on efforts to carry out a 1994 agreement in which North Korea agreed to scrap its nuclear programme in exchange for two light-water nuclear reactors.

Addressing Seoul's complaints that North Korea has failed to comply with aspects of the deal, Mrs. Albright said South Korea and the United States agreed that the construction of the reactors must move forward this spring as planned "despite some of the frustrations of dealing with the North."

Mrs. Albright and South Korean leaders also discussed the fate of North Korean defector Hwang Jang-Yop, who has remained holed up in the South Korean consulate in Beijing since Feb. 12.

"We believe that the issue is being handled properly and smoothly and that the Republic of Korea will be able to have a valuable discussion with Mr. Hwang," Mrs. Albright said.

## GIA claims responsibility for recent Algeria massacres

PARIS (AFP) — Algeria's extremist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility for two recent massacres in villages south of Algiers and for a bloody attack on a military installation near the Algerian capital, the Al Hayat daily reported Saturday.

According to the newspaper, which is distributed in several Western and Arab capitals, the GIA issued a statement claiming to have been behind the slaughter earlier this month of more than 50 people in two separate attacks on villages.

The authenticity of the statement has not been verified.

According to the daily, the document stated that the GIA was responsible for an attack last Monday on the village of Kerraich near the town of Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

A group of 30 to 50 men armed with guns, axes and swords took families out of their homes and decapitated some, the witnesses added. Survivors said that 24 women, six men and a child were killed. The GIA statement said 41 people had been killed.

The statement also claimed responsibility for an unreported attack on a second village some 30 kilometres south of Algiers on February 10 in which 25 people were killed.

## Chinese ambassador urges deeper U.S. ties with Beijing

WASHINGTON (R) — China's ambassador called on the United States Friday to seize what he termed a historic opportunity to work more closely together for the good of world peace.

Citing a series of high-level U.S. visits to Beijing, beginning Monday with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Ambassador Li Daoyu said: "We believe it is time both China and the United States increase dialogue and enlarge cooperation."

"It is time both countries meet the challenge of history and work to bring a stable, healthy Sino-U.S. relationship into the 21st century," he told a symposium marking the 25th anniversary of the Shanghai Communiqué that set the stage for normal diplomatic ties in 1979.

The ambassador referred to the scheduled visit late

The GIA also purported to be behind an attack the same day on an army installation at nearby Bougara in which it said 12 soldiers and eight members of a self-defence unit had been killed.

Al Hayat quoted a GIA turncoat as saying the slaughter was part of a bloody score-settling battle between the GIA and self-defence units, which have been set up to protect villages from attacks by the Islamic fundamentalist group.

The informant said that GIA leader Antar Zouabri had vowed to get even with the vigilantes after some of them massacred his family.

He added that he had turned him in because Mr. Zouabri had ordered his men to massacre the families of his own followers deemed "suspect." One man who refused to carry out the order was killed on the spot in front of his family, the turncoat said.

"Some armed Islamists, hearing of the massacre of their own families, have gone to take revenge on the families of other armed Islamists," he told Al Hayat.

Meanwhile, the battle for the ballots of Algeria's violence-free voters began in earnest Friday with the creation of a new political party designed to support President Liamine Zeroual.

Interim parliamentary

Speaker Abdelkader Bensalah announced the formation of the National Democratic Rally three months before general elections in Algeria.

Mr. Bensalah, 56, a former diplomat, said the party would draw its support from the UGTA trade union federation, and organisations of women, peasants and independence war veterans' groups which support Mr. Zeroual.

It was to have been led by late UGTA leader Abdelhak Benhamouda, but he was gunned down in late January in an attack purportedly claimed by the Islamic Front of the Armed Jihad.

The first round of the elections is due to be held on May 29 or June 3, and Mr. Zeroual has promised that they will take place in a climate of security once Islamic radical groups are "exterminated."

Earlier this week, the interim parliament — known as the National Transition Council — adopted new electoral laws replacing the old majority voting system with proportional representation.

It also toughened up the laws on political parties, banning creation of parties along religious or racial lines. The move was aimed at easing the threat of Islamic fundamentalist parties.

U.S. ties with China went into a tailspin from which they only emerged late last year after Mr. Clinton let President Lee Teng-Hui of Taiwan enter the United States to attend a college reunion in June 1995.

## Burundian army reportedly kills over 150 civilians

BUJUMBURA (R) — Foreign aid workers said Friday troops killed more than 150 civilians in southwestern Burundi in reprisals after rebel attacks, but the army denied the charge.

"Armed bands (rebels) attacked in the three communes overnight on Monday. They killed 13 people, but the army didn't kill anybody," said army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Nibizi.

The aid workers, who declined to be identified, said troops killed more than 100 people at Mugara and 51 people including women and children on the hills near Maranyva in Burundi commune Monday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that 50 gunmen killed the 13 and destroyed a health centre in Mugara, six kilometres east of Lake Tanganyika bordering on Zaire, when most of its male residents were out on a night security patrol.

The Tutsi-dominated army, which seized power in July last year, is fighting a vicious war against Hutu rebels. Both sides are frequently accused by human rights groups of massacring civilians.

"The rebels attacked at three places. They attacked a camp of displaced people at Muranyva at Burundi commune and killed three displaced people and the army reacted by killing 51 people including women and children," said one of the aid workers.

"At Mugara in Rumonge commune the rebels killed 12 people including a Protestant pastor and the army reacted by killing more than 100 people on the hills," the aid worker added.

Aid workers said more civilians were killed at Mugara in fighting between troops and rebels but had no exact figures.

Dozens of wounded civilians were treated Friday at a hospital in central Bujumbura, about 180 kilometres north of the sites of the killings.

More than 150,000 people — mainly civilians — have been killed in Burundi since October 1993 when soldiers murdered the country's first elected Hutu president in an attempted coup.

## Chirac presses Romania's bid for quick NATO entry

BUCHAREST (R) — French President Jacques Chirac promised Romania's new centrist leaders unflinching support Friday in their bid to secure early admission to an expanded NATO.

Mr. Chirac, given a rousing reception in the streets as the first major Western leader to visit Bucharest in six years, told Romania's parliament he would defend the country's interests in both NATO and the European Union. He also pledged to take account of Russia's opposition to NATO expansion.

"I want Romania to join us within NATO from 1999. I am saying this here in Bucharest as I said it in London, Washington and Bonn," Mr. Chirac said in an address in the vast, opulent palace built by executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Mr. Chirac said Romania deserved to be included in NATO's first expansion, to be announced at a July summit, after resolving disputes with Hungary in a treaty last year and bringing ethnic Hungarians into its new coalition government.

"France will extend you all its support and champion your interests within the European Union and NATO to help you overcome difficulties," he told parliament's two chambers, dominated by centrists since last November's election.

The United States considers Romania a longshot for early NATO membership behind favourites Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. But it has appeared to improve its prospects after President Emil Constantinescu

and a centrist coalition threw ex-Communists out of office last November.

Mr. Chirac said France wanted Romania to join the European Union "as soon as possible." But he gave no target date, steering clear of the deadline of the year 2000 he supported during recent visits to Warsaw and Budapest, where economic change has been faster.

At Bucharest's Arch of Triumph, a smaller copy of the Paris monument, Mr. Chirac launched his two-day visit by wading into a crowd of about 5,000 well-wishers shouting "vive la France."

He then waved from the window of his limousine as he swept down the broad boulevards of the city still called "the little Paris of the east" by older residents. French and Romanian tricolors fluttered from lampposts and buses.

Radio and television aired French songs and films, an indication of the excitement in a country shunned by foreign leaders under Mr. Constantinescu's predecessor, Ion Iliescu.

Romania argues that its position on the Black Sea and proximity to Poland and ex-Soviet Ukraine make its inclusion a strategic trump card for NATO. It hopes Mr. Chirac can persuade Washington to back its rapid admission.

In his address to parliament, Mr. Chirac said NATO expansion had to take account of the interests of "the great Russian nation," an allusion to Moscow's opposition to enlargement, and warned against creating a "new divide within Europe."

## N. Korean minister's death sets stage for shake-up

SEOUL (R) — North Korean Minister of State Kang Song-chol's death on Friday set the stage for a shake-up in the leadership of the isolated communist state.

Mr. Kang, 66, was the third highest-ranking official in the North Korean hierarchy, second only to Supreme Leader Kim Jong-il and Vice Premier Kim Jong-suk.

His death, which came after a long illness, was seen as a major blow to the North Korean leadership.

Mr. Kang had been in charge of the North Korean economy and was widely respected for his role in the country's development.

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# Albright cites North 'hurting' factor in Korea peace

PENNSYLVANIA — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Sunday that the North Korean peace process is being "hurting" by the U.S. policy of not recognizing the North Korean government.

"The U.S. policy is not to recognize the North Korean government," she said. "It is a policy that is hurting the peace process."

Albright was speaking at a news conference in Philadelphia after a meeting with President Bill Clinton.

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## N. Korean minister's death sets stage for shake-up

SEOUL (R) — North Korea announced Saturday the death of powerful Defense Minister Choe Kwang, and officials in rival South Korea said it set the stage for a major shake-up of Pyongyang's ruling elite.

Mr. Choe is the third top official to disappear from the ranks of the Stalinist state's leadership in 10 days.

A brief announcement by Pyongyang's official Korea Central Radio said Mr. Choe, 78, died of a heart attack Friday.

This followed news Friday of the replacement of ailing Prime Minister Kang Song-San, known to be suffering from diabetes and liver disease.

The previous week the Communist nation's top ideologue, Hwang Jang-Yop, took refuge in the South Korean embassy in Beijing where he remains, awaiting Chinese permission to leave for asylum in Seoul.

"Choe's death, Kang's replacement and Hwang's defection are likely to expedite an overall leadership change in the North," South Korea's Deputy National Unification Minister Lee Ho told Reuters.

He said Mr. Kang was ranked sixth and Choe seventh on a hierarchy list Pyongyang released last July on the second anniversary of the death of North Korea founding leader Kim Il-Sung.

Mr. Hwang, a senior advisor to Kim's son and political heir, Kim Jong-Il, was ranked 24th in Pyongyang's power structure.

"Kim Jong-Il could try to introduce generational changes and policy changes by appointing his associates," Mr. Lee said. "But such changes would work as destabilizing factors."

Park Hun-Ok, a senior fellow at the private Institute of North Korea Studies, agreed that the departure of senior officials would lead to a leadership reshuffle.

The junior Kim, although already in effective control of the north, has yet to take over the key posts held by his father — those of state president and general secretary of the ruling party.

There has been speculation he would formally assume those titles after the third anniversary of his father's death later this year.

"A major change appears inevitable, particularly in view of North Korea's plan to seal Kim Jong-Il's formal accession this year," Mr. Park said.

"But removal of old-guard figures appointed by Kim Il-Sung would create a disgruntled group in Pyongyang which is already in turmoil," he added.



Zoran Djindjic (right), leader of Democratic Party and one of three co-leaders of the Zajedno (Together) Coalition, sits next to his coalition partner Vuk Draskovic, during the city council constitutional session Friday. Serbia's opposition coalition which won a three-month battle with ruling socialists over control of Belgrade's city council, elected Democratic Party leader Djindjic as mayor Friday (Reuters photo).

## Muslims harassed in Serb, Croat parts of Bosnia — U.N.

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations has said that Muslims in the Bosnian Serb town of Teslic and the Croat sector of Mostar were being pressured to leave through a campaign of harassment and verbal intimidation.

"We had seven to eight cases of intimidation in Teslic in the past two weeks, which involve harassment and burning of haystacks," spokesman Alex Ivanko said.

Teslic is a town in northern Bosnia controlled by the Bosnian Serbs which saw most of its Muslim and Croat residents expelled during the course of the 43-month war.

Before the war began in 1992 non-Serbs numbered about 40 per cent of the Teslic population according to a census. About 1,000 Muslims still live there, Mr. Ivanko said.

The U.N. in Teslic was told Thursday about the kidnapping of a Muslim man by two uniformed Serbs, he added.

The U.N. international police tracked the man down in Serb police custody, where he had been charged with "shouting Muslim propaganda while being drunk."

We believe that this is absolutely unacceptable that the minorities are once again being pressured to leave the Teslic area," Mr. Ivanko said.

In the divided Bosnian town of Mostar a Muslim woman complained to U.N. police that she was receiving threatening phone calls, pressuring her to leave her flat in the Croat part of town. She had been expelled from her flat on Feb. 10 but returned five days ago with the help of international organizations.

Fighting in Bosnia ended with a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in December 1995 but Serb and Croat nationalists have since continued the policy of creating ethnically pure areas, uprooting hundreds of people.

The U.N. estimates some 250,000 have returned to their homes, but mainly to areas where they form a majority. Minority returns have not been significant.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said living conditions for non-Serbs in the Bosnian Serb part of the country are very difficult.

"We had a wave of expulsions from Teslic and Banja Luka last summer, when about 100 people were expelled from Teslic only," he said.

Mr. Janowski said the last expulsions were preceded by similar harassment, but could not predict if more expulsions could be expected. "We have to wait and see," he said.

The pressure on the Muslim minority in Serb and Croat areas will not help the issue of refugee returns, Mr. Ivanko said.

"There are areas in Bosnia where the situation for Muslims is not easy, to say the least, and when Muslims are pressured to leave, it only makes the refugee situation more difficult."

A Western official said he believed Bosnian Serbs wanted to take advantage of the media focus on Muslim-Croat relations since a group of Muslims was attacked while visiting a cemetery in the Croat part of Mostar on Feb. 10.

"My reading is that Serbs probably think they have a chance now to quietly push a few people out," an official, who asked not to be named, said.

## Thousands cheer new Belgrade leaders at rally

BELGRADE (R) — About 150,000 demonstrators thronged central Belgrade late into the night to celebrate the end of 50 years of Communist and Socialist rule in the Serbian capital and to welcome their new mayor.

The mood was jubilant and deafening after a day in which Serbia's authoritarian President Slobodan Milosevic saw his party lose control of Belgrade City Council and his rule challenged from Montenegro.

The crowd was celebrating the climax of three months of daily street protests which forced Mr. Milosevic to recognise opposition victories in November's local elections.

Young and old sang, cheered and clambered onto statues and windowsills of the National Museum to get a better view. Tiny "Grandmother Olga" who cheered protesters from her balcony daily during the marches addressed the rally.

In a symbolic act after taking power in the capital, the Zajedno (Together) Coalition hacked a five-pointed star representing communism from the top of Belgrade City Hall.

Its leaders told the crowd that their next target would be an identical star on the top of Serbia's parliament across the street.

Montenegrin Prime Minister Mile Djukanovic said Mr. Milosevic would not get the Montenegrin votes needed to switch from the Serbian to the Yugoslav presidency this year and it would be "totally wrong" for him to stay.

Montenegro, the junior partner in the Yugoslav Federation, is strongly placed to sabotage Mr. Milosevic's prospects of political survival after the turmoil caused by his attempt to revoke Zajedno's election wins.

Mr. Djukanovic told the independent Belgrade weekly Vreme: "Milosevic's political thought is outdated he lacks the ability to view things strategically and he is surrounded by the wrong people who keep him rather uninformed about the real scale of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's problems."

Mr. Milosevic, barred by law from a third term as Serbian president, planned to have himself elected Yugoslav president this year by the federal parliament.

But Montenegrin votes would be essential to make constitutional changes needed to give the ceremonial federal office the wide-ranging executive powers he wielded as Serbian president.

Belgrade's new mayor, Democratic Party leader Zoran Djindjic, told the crowd the city government was only the first step in Serbia's struggle to overthrow Mr. Milosevic.

"We all know that this is only a small victory on our way to the ultimate victory — the victory of democracy," he said to deafening whistle blasts and cheers.

"Just 50 metres away from the star we removed there stands another awaiting its turn to be taken to the museum... Tomorrow we shall re-start our struggle to reform, democratise and free Serbia," he declared.

"We have taken the star where it belongs, the Museum of Revolution, to sit with other ideological symbols of the past."

The election dispute added democratic reforms to the West's demands in return for a gradual lifting of the remaining sanctions on Yugoslavia.

The United States welcomed Zajedno's takeover of Belgrade but said it wanted to see more reforms including a free media.

Zajedno's breakthrough ignited a battle in the Socialist Party between hardliners and pragmatists on how to keep the opposition at bay ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections due by the end of 1997.

Mr. Djindjic said the struggle to free the media, over which Mr. Milosevic retains tight control, would begin immediately.

The opposition jubilation has been tarnished by signs of cracks in the united front which Together presented so forcefully to Mr. Milosevic during 88 straight days of protests.

The three parties have been haggling for days over the division of its seats in Belgrade's city council, as well as in the 13 other municipalities it won, arousing fears that the coalition may not survive the test of working together.

During Friday's celebration on central Belgrade square, Vuk Draskovic, another Together leader, said in a barb clearly aimed at Mr. Djindjic: "If these (new) authorities are not good, we will change it in a month or two, or six."

Belgrade commentators say that the political alliance looks stronger than it really is. The people who were screaming and blowing whistles during the pro-democracy rallies were much more anti-Milosevic than pro-Together.

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## Three freed in Britain after 18 years in prison

LONDON (R) — Three men jailed 18 years ago for the murder of a newspaper delivery boy walked free Friday, in a case which delivered another blow to the reputation of the British justice system.

Michael Hickey, his cousin Vincent Hickey, and James Robinson had consistently protested their innocence since being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1979 for the murder of 13-year-old Carl Bridgewater, shot dead during a burglary.

After two hours of legal representation, the three were released on unconditional bail pending an appeal on April 8.

They left the court arm in arm with ecstatic relatives, many of them in tears. Scores of well-wishers cheered, whistled and clapped as they appeared on the steps of London's high court.

"It is the best feeling in the world. I am relieved. I would like to say how grateful we are to all those who helped us, the people who have believed in our innocence," said Mr. Hickey.

Theresa Robinson, a solicitor's secretary who married Mr. Robinson while he was in prison, punched the air with joy and wept openly after the bail decision was announced.

Mr. Robinson said he thought he was "tripping" when he had heard Thursday night of his suddenly arranged court appearance.

Lawyers representing the men said police had tricked a fourth person, Patrick Molloy, into signing a confession after they said that Mr. Hickey had confessed. The lawyers said the Hickey confession was fabricated by police officers.

"It is only a small part of serious substantial and widespread police malpractice involving a number of very high-ranking officers down to the lowest rank who must have been involved in what was going on," said lawyer Michael Mansfield.

The convictions of the four were based on the confession from Mr. Molloy, who died in prison in 1981 after being convicted of manslaughter. Prosecution lawyers said they

accepted the trial was fundamentally flawed and the convictions were unsafe.

"His (Molloy's) conviction must be regarded as unsafe," said prosecution lawyer Jeremy Roberts. It was recommended at their trial that all three should serve 25 years in jail.

The men, who had an appeal turned down by judges in 1989, staged rooftop protests in prison to protest their innocence and their families had waged a lengthy, high-profile battle to have their convictions overturned.

Mr. Hickey's mother, Ann Whelan, said the policemen responsible for her son's conviction should now take his place. "I want the police officers that behaved badly to go to prison and match year-by-year, day-by-day,



## Jordan Times

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## Peace needs two hands

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives in Amman today for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian leadership for the second time since he assumed power in June of last year. This time, however, the visit will be different, since it takes place after the settlement of the stand-off between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) over Hebron but before taking what seems to be an impending decision to establish and expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, especially in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu's talks here will be important, even crucial, for the success of the peace effort in the Middle East, and that is why perhaps he should know how people feel about his visit here. To begin with, the prime minister must know that relations between our two countries also depend on the progress being made, or tension created, by Israel with other Arab states, especially on the Palestinian track. He probably remembers the outcry in Jordan over the holding of a fair for Israeli products last month. It was a clear message that many Jordanians would not accept to normalise relations with the Israelis as long as the Netanyahu government dragged its feet on peace-making efforts with PNA. When Jordanians see the political and national rights of our brethren across the river being trampled on and ignored, we would have no alternative but to conclude that peace is not working very well.

Following the agreement on Hebron, which Mr. Netanyahu concluded with PNA President Yasser Arafat, there was a breakthrough in which Jordan and Israel could go back to their own bilateral relations to see where they had fallen short of expectations. It is no secret to pass on to the Israeli prime minister that the people of Jordan have yet to meet their expectations from the Wadi Araba peace treaty. Travelling to Israel remains cumbersome and expensive. Trading with Israel is still hampered by all sorts of bureaucratic and other barriers. The agreement to share water equitably between the two countries is far from being attained. Joint projects that could draw investments, employment and other economic opportunities are where they were before, on the drawing boards. The major problem of Jordanian absentee property in Israel remains without a necessary and satisfactory solution.

Jordanians who own property in Israel cannot understand that they are being regarded as absentee owners. At a time when Israel clamoured about dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks and lectured Berné about its moral responsibilities towards the heirs of the victims of Nazi Germany, we still find Jordanians denied their property rights within Israel.

We feel dismayed, on the other hand, when we hear that, even with the peace treaty in force, Israel still feels that its eastern border with Jordan is still threatened and as such it would have to maintain military presence along the Jordan Valley.

The picture that emerges is not a healthy one. It necessitates action that would introduce a new culture of peace between us. The declaration that was adopted at Copenhagen by pro-peace activists, both Arab and Israeli, last month is one example of how to contribute substantially to building new bridges of understanding and cooperation that would serve the true cause of peace. But until that happens, and other efforts bear fruit, the Israeli government has to do some badly needed homework. Unless and until all outstanding issues between our countries are fairly resolved, the formal peace between us would remain colder than it should be.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour said Jordan should rally to the support of the Palestinians to help them rid themselves of Israel's economic hegemony and at the same time secure trade and economic links with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Taher Adwan said that it was Israel which insisted that economic matters between the Jewish state and the Arab states, including Palestine, be an integral element in the peace treaties as well as the Oslo accords. But, said the writer, it is Israel which is now obstructing the implementation of these agreements with the Palestinians and the Jordanians and is preventing the Jordanians and the Palestinians from establishing regular trade ties. As a result, Jordanian goods are not reaching Palestinian or Israeli markets as stipulated in the agreements nor is Israel honouring the various provisions of its peace treaty with Jordan, according to the writer. He said Israel is now flooding the Jordanian market with goods without any obstacles, while Jordanian products find great difficulty in crossing over to the West Bank and the Israeli market.

COMMENTING on Israeli plans to establish a Jewish settlement of 6,500 housing units on Arab lands close to Jerusalem, an editorial in Al Aswaq daily said the move not only flagrantly violates the Oslo accords and U.N. resolutions, but it is bound to shake confidence between Arabs and Israelis and ruin all chances of peace. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is going ahead with plans to build the settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim (Har Homal) on the outskirts of the Arab city with total disregard to Arab protests and the Oslo accords which stipulated that no change can be made in the present situation before the conclusion of the final status negotiations, noted the daily. All these moves are negatively affecting the peace process with the Arab countries in general and the peace with the Palestinians in particular, added the paper. It is clear that the Israelis are feverishly trying to impose a de facto situation through the seizure of more Arab lands and the construction of more settlements before the final status negotiations can begin, it noted.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Jordan remains under siege

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

AT ONE time, we thought that Jordan was placed by Arab foreign powers under economic and financial siege in order to bring this key country to its knees and force the leadership to follow certain policies such as going to the negotiating table and making peace with Israel. Under this belief we thought that, by signing a peace treaty with Israel, we rid ourselves from the siege. Some Jordanians went further to expect that with peace we shall become the darling of the United States, and that peace will bring economic prosperity, so that poverty and unemployment will disappear from our life, and the standard of living will rise in no time to the Israeli level.

Shimon Peres, then the Israeli minister of foreign affairs, and later prime minister of Israel, was the major, if not the only, loud voice promising that peace will lead to a new Middle East, with prosperity, growth and higher standards of living for everyone. His book, described as visionary, was translated into Arabic and widely read and analysed. It seems that many Jordanians liked to believe Peres and share his dream because it was a guaranteed prescription for the impending disappointment.

After over two years of official peace, nothing material happened on ground. Almost nothing changed. There was no war to lay its arms. Jordan did not ask for any commitment thinking that it is bad to ask for a price for doing

the right thing. Accordingly, Jordan received no reward for making peace from any country or organisation. Therefore we can't blame any country or organisation for breaking their promises which were not made in the first place. Only the United States promised to write off its debt. It fulfilled its commitment. Moreover, it granted Jordan military aircraft and other equipment drawn from the stores and leftovers of the American armed forces.

After two years, the Jordanians got to understand, and sometimes accept, albeit with contempt, the reality of not expecting much. What they can't understand or accept, however, is the continued sea and land siege. Lloyds company is still busy inspecting the loads of every ship calling on Aqaba port, and examining each lorry leaving Jordan towards the Iraqi borders. This serves as an indication that Jordan could not be trusted to abide by the United Nations sanctions, and that the sanctions are effectively extended to include Jordan, while leaving other countries, surrounding Iraq, free to behave as they like, including Turkey, Iran and Dubai. This is an obvious humiliation directed to Jordan. If this is tolerated by the Jordanian government, it is definitely not acceptable and cannot be tolerated any longer by the Jordanian people. Lloyds company should be expelled not tomorrow but today.

The continued presence of Lloyds means that Jordan is subject to sanctions not made by the Security Council according to Chapter Seven which is devoted exclusively to deal with Arab countries.

To add insult to injury, the United Nations Sanctions Committee (practically America and Britain) approved all food and medicine contracts made by Iraq with all countries except Jordan, claiming that the prices of the Jordanian products are equal to the prices offered by other suppliers. This is a ridiculous excuse, because it applies to European contracts without creating a problem. This latest blow to the Jordanian economy is beyond our comprehension. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that some 220 enterprises which were based in Jordan and doing legal business with Iraq left Jordan to Turkey and Dubai, where they operate freely without the heavy-handed surveillance of the government agencies acting under American pressure.

So far we have taken too much. This nonsense must be stopped. It seems that America and Britain are determined to annihilate the Iraqi people on racial and religious grounds, but are they, determined as well to impoverish and humiliate the Jordanian people? We are entitled to an answer.

# Hebron agreement et al — no real reason to rejoice

By Edward W. Said

THE HEBRON agreement, signed last month with such fanfare and excitement, was really signed in September 1995, as part of the Oslo Two accord celebrated with patched-together ceremonial on the White House lawn.

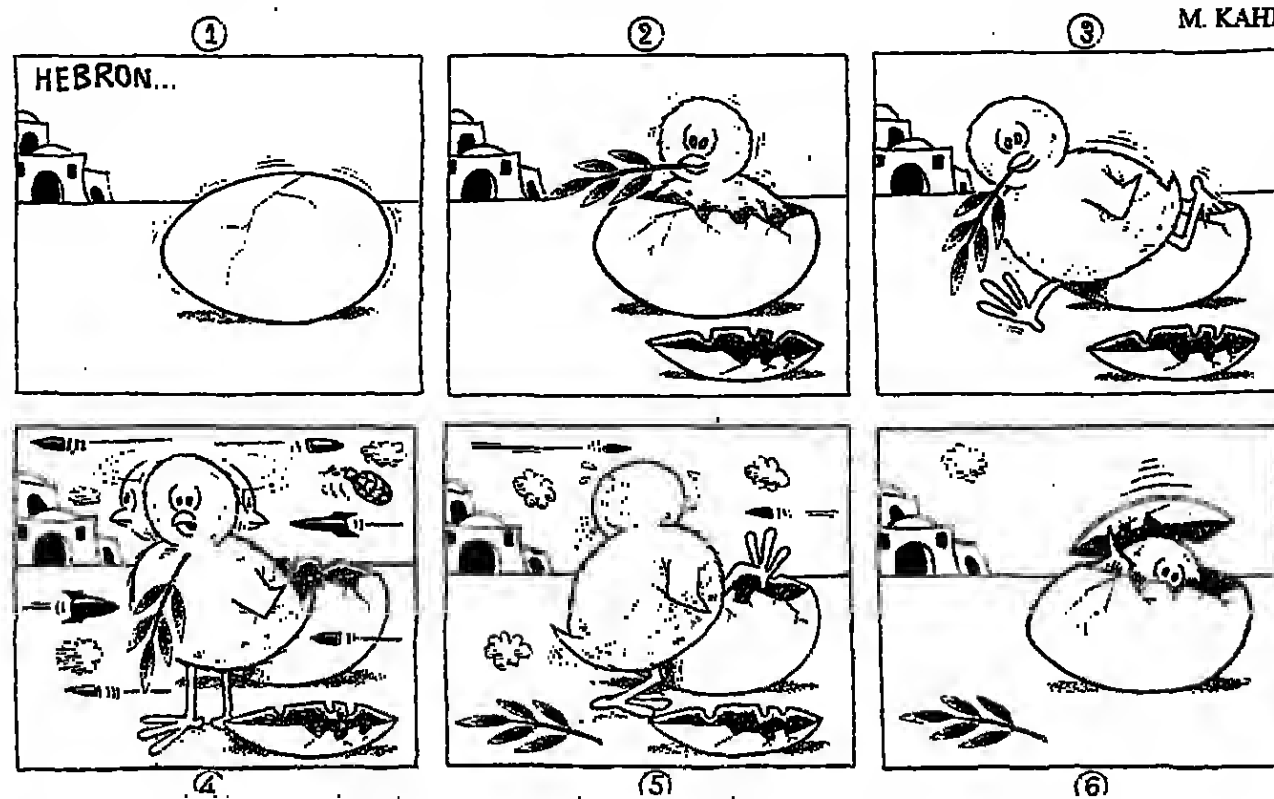
When I visited Hebron last July, I paid a call on an old friend, Mayor Mustafa Natshe, to find out what he saw as the future of his town. He told me that he had pleaded with Yasser Arafat and his men during the 1995 negotiations that led up to Oslo Two not to sign an agreement that would give a Palestinian seal of approval to the 450 illegal settlers — most of them fanatics — squatting with such offensive, even murderous, insistence in the centre of an Arab town.

"It isn't just the principle of the 'thing' that is so galling," he said, "but the fact that giving them this foothold in our midst by partitioning the town makes it possible for them to use Hebron as a precedent for staying in all their other settlements, extending their reach further all over the West Bank."

Natshe's pleas went unheard, as Arafat and his team pressed ahead with their Israeli peace "partners" who consolidated their gains with, I suspect, a sense of disbelief. How else could even the most hardened Israeli explain that the Palestinians had accepted a formula for "coexistence" in Hebron which gave 450 people (with the Israeli army guarding them) the choice of 20 per cent of the town's commercial centre, whereas the 160,000 resident Palestinians were expected to be happy that they got 80 per cent, so bogged down with conditions as to make it a peripheral part of the Israeli enclave.

What sort of "strategic" calculation by the Palestinian leadership produced acquiescence in the Israeli settler population being allowed to carry arms, abetted by Israeli patrols given virtually the run of the surrounding hills, while the Palestinian police were limited to a few poorly armed men, theoretically subject to Israeli restraints? Nevertheless, there seemed to be genuine euphoria among Hebronites, for whom the presence of Israeli settlers and soldiers has been so unpleasant an ordeal; just seeing some of them leave in the hope of not having them come back on quite the same basis as before supplied a good day's worth of celebration.

But much of the jubilation will be as short-lived as it was when Ramallah and Nablus went through the same happy catharsis 18 months ago. Hebron was not liberating 50 per cent of it was given the right to administer municipal affairs — sanitation, health, postal delivery, education, local security



and traffic — under the Palestine National Authority's jurisdiction, with Israel still in charge of security, access, water and overall sovereignty.

The ambiguities are evident in reports from Hebron in the press. On the first day, there were reports citing Netanyahu and Sharansky as to how Hebron is still Israeli, backed up by statistics showing continued Israeli control over the city. The next day, editorials and stories predicted a Palestinian state emerging soon from the messy Palestinian "archipelago" that has left the West Bank and Gaza divided into lots of little parts without territorial continuity or sovereignty.

On U.S. television, the de rigueur scene of Arafat and Netanyahu shaking hands with American mediator Dennis Ross between them showed a grim-faced Arafat anxious to speed away into the night. As the New York Times coyly put it in its jubilant report of how well things went, the actual amounts of land to be ceded to the Palestinians were left entirely to "Israel's discretion."

Now this is precisely how things were left in the Oslo Two documents, since just before the Washington signing the Israelis calmly removed the specific areas of redeployment already agreed with the Palestinians and left the timetable. Apparently Arafat dejected at this, but under American pressure was made to sign. His latest heroics during the Hebron negotiations were meant to make up for what had happened earlier, but he failed again. No wonder he didn't want to answer any questions.

It has been no secret that the U.S., which has subcontracted out its Middle Eastern policy to Dennis Ross and his coterie of experts, placed Arafat under impossible pressure. Israel's political concerns and its exaggerated obsessions with security and terror were adopted by the U.S. middlemen, who

were acting as anything but honest brokers. There was also an important confluence of strategic aims that united Netanyahu and Ross: That there should never be anything resembling real Palestinian self-determination.

And three and a half years after Oslo began, "autonomy" for Palestinians is all that has been achieved, in tiny enclaves on the West Bank whose roads and access are controlled by Israel. An important town like Ramallah now has settlements on three sides. Sovereignty in the true sense of the word remains in Israel's hands, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Why do so many Israelis seem upset by this agreement, which keeps them firmly in charge throughout the still-occupied territories? The reason is an ideological fanaticism so deep and all-encompassing that most Western and even Arab readers do not have an adequate sense of its imperatives. Despite the millions of Palestinians in Palestine, they have always been considered aliens, to be tolerated at most or to be driven out or treated either as non-existent or as juridical inferiors.

Palestine is considered to be the land of the Jewish people entrusted to Israel; no non-Jews are doctrinally allowed to use or have this land. That is why Netanyahu, more honest than Peres, has always refused to accept the formula "land for peace," and why sovereignty accorded to non-Jews has not, and will not be, an admissible concept in the negotiations.

I believe these positions are also shared by the "acceptable" Israelis (including the ubiquitous Amos Oz), whose views are aired in Western media as representative of the peace camp, and who brilliantly conceal their real views of Palestinians beneath conscience-rending, anguished prose. They never bring up sovereignty for Palestinians. Many of them (including the egre-

gious Henry Kissinger) speak of a Palestinian state, which they say they would accept; but none of them has specified sovereignty and real self-determination for Palestinians.

Trying to put myself in the shoes of the PLO men who continue to produce such disadvantageous agreements that do nothing to change the course of Israeli policy, I keep asking what our leaders must be thinking. They certainly do not do very much talking, and share very little with their people beyond the usual triumphalist nonsense.

All I come up with is a series of unflattering rationales for going on as before, with equally bad results and equally tragic consequences for the whole people. One is that as long as the peace process guarantees the centrality of the PLO and its leader, then anything goes. Another is that being so out-gunned and out-smarted by Israel, you feel you have no choice but to go on, trying to brazen it out vis-à-vis your own people with hopeful but ultimately misleading speeches and promises; meanwhile, you surround yourself with supporters who tell you what you want to hear, and are anxious to help you set up feel-good things like a bagpipe band, a few luxurious cars and houses, and postage stamps with your face on them. The best thing is to go on as many state visits (none of them necessary) as possible, one day Stockholm, another Paris, another Cairo.

A third rationale is to make more concessions, accepting all the humiliating Israeli conditions in the wishful fantasy that some day you'll either stop having to make concessions or the Israelis will give you a few things back. Fourthly, you can say that this is politics, a dirty business, and so we proceed with the Israelis like partners in crime; never mind that they get all the advantages, a lot of commercial deals have come our way.

There may be one or two more possibilities, but none explains the Palestinian streets' acceptance of this appalling situation, which seems to worsen daily. Many of Arafat's advisers are intelligent men and women, quite a few with long histories in progressive politics. Why are they so silent? And why do the most gifted so willingly accept a few material advantages (a car, an office, a VIP designation) in return for continuing to work with a man whose tactics they loathe and whose mistakes over the past few years they know — and say openly — have brought us as Palestinians and as Arabs to one of the lowest points in our history?

Why silence, and why cooperation? Do they feel no obligation towards the truth and to the misery of a people whose continuing dispossession could have been alleviated a thousand times better than the PLO has done?

In the meantime, most people in the U.S. and in Europe genuinely believe that peace has improved things for the "area," and that for the first time in 30 years the Palestinians are getting their freedom. This is the cruelty of the Palestinian dilemma. We want to show that we desire peace, yet because of that "peace," the daily lives of all but a tiny handful of wealthy businessmen, security chiefs and PA employees have become a good deal worse.

For at least six months, the mainstream media in the U.S. and Europe have been filled with stories about the diplomatic front, the negotiations, the impasses and the final breakthroughs, and completely void of anything that shows real Palestinian lives on the ground.

There has been no coverage of the thousands of students in Gaza who cannot go back to their schools and universities on the West Bank (forbidden by Israel); nothing about the large number of Palestinian prisoners still festering (and in some

cases being tortured to death) in Israeli prisons; nothing about the horrors that a large family in Gaza with unemployed father must go through just to survive; nothing about the systematic, almost daily reprisals against Palestinians who try to prevent their own dispossession by Israeli settlers and army; nothing about what it means for a Palestinian to try to get in and out of Gaza (or about all West Bankers who have been forbidden entry into Jerusalem for a year); nothing about the checkpoints that make the little West Bank enclaves seem like stifling ghettos; nothing about life under Arafat's dreadful regime, with books, newspapers and magazines censored or banned, the security services threatening average people, and corruption killing the possibility of regular daily business.

And nothing, above all, about the total absence of law or the rule of law in the Palestinian autonomy areas.

Given all this, plus the sense of frustration and hopelessness felt by every Palestinian at the cruel fate our leaders are forced to enact, it becomes an absolute duty to describe the actualities of quotidian life under the peace process — unadorned and in the greatest detail possible.

The world must be told by us what our people under occupation are still going through. This is not a matter of money, but of discipline and will. If every one of us first took it upon him- or herself to be informed, and then attempted somehow to break through the official and media silence — with a letter to the editor, a call to a radio or TV station, the setting-up of groups to do this kind of work systematically and collectively — then we will be beginning our attempt at liberation, a laughably modest attempt it is true, but surely a great deal better than passivity and silence.

The present situation cannot last. There are too many inequities and injustices right at the heart of Palestinian life. Who is preparing for the next, post-Hebron phase?

The writer, born in Jerusalem, is university professor of literature and chair of the doctoral programme in comparative literature at Columbia University, New York. His books include "Orientalism," "The Question of Palestine" and "Culture and Imperialism." Last year he published "Peace and its Discontents," which deals with the Middle East process; later this year a new updated edition of "Covering Islam" will appear. This article is reprinted from The Guardian.

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all options remained open in the future.

"We are not going to (allow) them to build arms so that they can damage the life of the Israeli state," he declared. "We are not going to give them all the rights" of an independent state.

"But inside the territories, they can have all the rights," he added.

In any case, he said, "we have to wait for the future. We have to build the life step by step. We don't have to decide now what will be in the future... Let us move forward and let us build a bridge, a very strong bridge, that both sides can move forward to each other."

Discussing the final shape of the Palestinian territories and possible Palestinian independence at this point, according to Mr. Mordcheai, will be counter-productive.

"What has been achieved (for peace in a long time can be damaged in a short time," he said. "I don't believe (in the theory) that we have captured something, we have it and we are sure had it for ever. Let us all use all our power to clear what we have and to move forward step by step with our lives."

"If we want to wreck everything, then all we have to do is to come to the final problem right now" — the political shape of the Palestinian territories, he warned.

Asked specifically whether he, as defence minister, was willing to facilitate the flow of Jordanian goods through Israeli-held territory without cumbersome security procedures that are slowing down trade, Mr. Mordcheai adopted a broader approach.

He said he would closely study all "commercial and security problems between Jordan and Israel" and that he wanted "to make it much more open and much more easier for the commercial movement from one side to another..."

"I will do what is necessary," he promised. "And if I find other problems that I can help solve with our ministers, our people, I would like to be the sponsor for all the issues in support of Jordan."







## Soaring stock prices put Egypt funds in limelight

CAIRO (R) — Record stock prices on the Cairo bourse have made a star out of Egyptian mutual funds as wary investors waiting for the inevitable correction gravitate towards the lower-risk returns, fund managers say.

Capital inflows have helped drive the market beyond the 400 point level and into record territory in the past month. On Sunday, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) all-share index closed at a record 418.28 points, its 19th highest level in a row and a 41 per cent increase from beginning-of-year levels.

In the whole of 1996, the market rose 39.3 per cent. "The market won't stay like this forever," said Hisham Akram, assistant

portfolio manager at Hermes Financial Management who runs the Delta Fund, a close-ended growth fund which is one of the best performing on the market.

Proponents of the 15 funds which trade Egyptian securities say they offer a good way for nationals or foreigners to invest their money in a spread of Egyptian stocks.

CMA regulations that stipulate funds can only invest 25 per cent of their portfolio in one sector and up to 10 per cent in a particular firm make for a diversified portfolio that cushions unit holders, fund managers say.

They said that although prices of certain privatisation stocks have more than doubled in the few months after they were offered by the state, investors are slowly realising that accumulated returns are better value for their money.

"People are beginning to realise that it's better to be less greedy and not go for the 300 per cent return that individual stocks offer and stick with the more steady and guaranteed return of funds," a prominent fund manager said.

The funds, with annualised returns of up to 51.7 per cent, are also drawing the more conservative crowd accustomed to putting their money in the bank and waiting for the interest, currently at nine per cent for large six-month deposits.

The average yield on Egyptian treasury bills has also fallen to a fraction under 10 per cent, which just makes the funds more lucrative.

"Investing on the stock exchange seriously is a full-time occupation," said one investor with holdings in both funds and shares. "Funds definitely involve less work than shares."

Analysts say that the total fund holdings represent about three billion pounds (\$880 million) out of the market's 38 billion pound capitalisation, leaving ample room for more funds to set up shop in Egyptian securities.

Investors can now choose from income, growth, open-ended or close-ended funds in Egypt and offshore. Most are run by brokerage houses or banks, but last year saw several international securities houses investing in Egypt.

In 1996, Concord and the state's National Bank of Egypt set up the \$46 million Concord Fund, which was promoted by HSBC James Capel. SBC Warburg and Lazard Freres raised \$74 million for the Egypt Trust and local brokerage EFG-Hermes helped raise \$43 million for the Egypt Fund.

"The market is just ripe for mutual funds and they have a long way to go. Saudi Arabia has about 80 mutual funds investing in their market, which is certainly smaller than ours," said Mohammad Maher of Prime Investments, which runs the 100 million pound Societe Arabe Internationale du Banque Fund.

He said the funds have largely taken over the role of the Islamic investment houses of the 1980s, but people are realising that they are definitely more reliable. Millions of Egyptians lost their life savings after the houses were shut down by the prosecutor for shady dealings.

"People had no faith in institutions but now we're slowly gaining their trust. Funds are less risk, the yields are higher and they have a stabilising effect on the market," he said.

## Tietmeyer sees low rates on capital markets for some time

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Rates on the international capital markets could remain relatively low for a rather long period, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer has said.

In a speech given in Freiburg (southwest Germany), the Bundesbank chief said that "the growing discipline of the non-monetary factors... would enable the central banks to maintain relatively low key interest rates for a longer period."

"And, more importantly, the rates on the capital market could stay at a low level for a longer time, or could even drop further," he added.

The central banker said non-monetary factors include budgetary policies and social policies, especially in connection with wages.

He noted that globalisation of the financial markets acts as a kind of monitoring of national financial policies and "forces countries to observe discipline".

A country pursuing too loose a debt policy may well find itself sanctioned by the markets, the Bundesbank leader said.

## Qatar shares reap healthy profits

DOHA (R) — Investors on Qatar's unofficial stock exchange reaped healthy profits in 1996, with the year seeing a steady rise in share market values, brokers have said.

"The returns varied widely, but 18 per cent is the average an investor made in 1996," said Mazin Al Shakharchi, assistant general manager of treasury and investments at the Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ).

Mr. Al Shakharchi said the outlook for 1997 looked even brighter, with an anticipated move to an official bourse and electronic trading by April.

"This will attract more investors, resulting in a considerable increase in trading volumes," he told Reuters.

He said gains on Qatar's bourse in 1996 came from about 11.5 per cent average increase in shares' market value, and an average of 6.5 per cent cash dividends distributed to shareholders on the previous year's profits.

The CBQ's 18-share index rose 12.89 points in the year to 126.32 on Jan. 1, 1997, from 113.43 on Jan. 1, 1996.

The best performers according to a CBQ year-end study were Qatar General Insurance, Qatar Cinema, Qatar National Bank and Qatar Navigation.

Dealers said high liquidity and a general upturn in the economic climate helped the market.

Qatar is a small oil producer within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but it possesses the world's third largest gas reserves and has one of the world's highest per capita incomes, estimated by the International Monetary Fund in 1995 at \$22,000.

## European Commission proposes tax on telephone call services

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Commission has adopted proposals to apply sales tax in so-called "callback" and other telephone services provided by operators based in countries outside the European Union (EU).

Such services route calls through low-cost billing centres enabling consumers to make cheap international calls.

The move to apply value added tax (VAT), which would increase bills by between 15 and 20 per cent depending on the EU country in which the customer is based, follows protests from European telephone companies.

These companies are losing market share to North American rivals offering the cut-price services. EU governments, anxious about the loss of tax revenues, have also protested.

The proposed legislation must be approved by all 15 EU states in order to become law. Introduction of the new measure is scheduled for Jan. 1, 1999 but under "fast-track" legislative procedures EU states could be authorised to apply VAT within a matter of months.

## Daily Beat

### Tens of thousands have not paid their electricity bills

\*\*THE JORDAN Electric Power Company (JEPCO) will continue disconnecting electricity of all subscribers who have not settled their bills to the company for a whole month, JEPCO's financial manager Ayman Abu Shanab said. He indicated that many subscribers have rushed to pay their dues but Mr. Abu Shanab noted that the number of those who have not yet settled their obligations runs into tens of thousands.

Mr. Abu Shanab revealed that JEPCO was under the obligation to pay JD22 million to the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) for power purchased from the firm that was known as the Jordan Electricity Authority until it was privatised and changed its name last year. The financial manager explained that his company pays JD7 million each month for the power supplied by NEPCO which imposes 12 per cent interest on any amount not paid on time by JEPCO.

According to the JEPCO official, the company is burdened by loans from local banks and by foreign credits and if subscribers do not make quick settlement of their dues, "JEPCO will not be able to honour its obligations which amount to JD100 million each year including JD8 million in salaries to employees and workers."

An official source at JEPCO affirmed that the JEPCO had written to the prime minister and the ministers of energy and finance demanding payment for the government's electricity consumption. A proposal to make a reconciliation of accounts with NEPCO was rejected by the Ministry of Finance (Al Dastour).

### New companies seeks AFM list

\*\*SEVEN NEW public shareholding companies have submitted requirements for listing at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), a press release by the stock exchange has said.

According to the press release, the authorised capital of those companies totals JD53.2 million.

Meanwhile, Jordan will take part in the meetings of the working committee of the Federal European and Asian Stock Exchange (FEAS) which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on Monday.

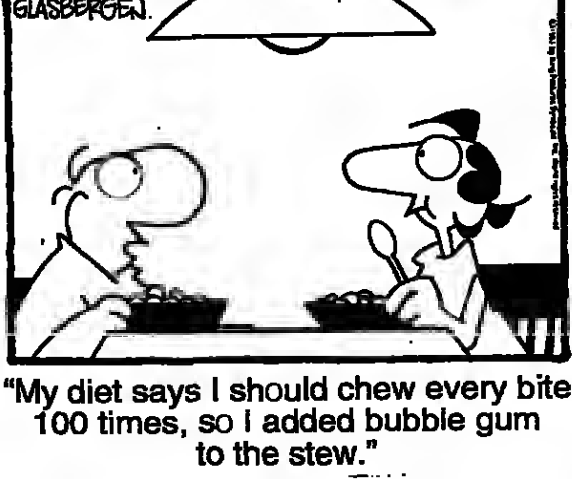
The two-day meetings will discuss various topics of interest to professionals in stock exchanges. Among the issues topping the meeting's agenda are the regulations related to disclosure requirements, detection methods and legislation governing inside trading in addition to technology issues particularly those related to software developments and their applications in trading procedures and surveillance.

The head of the Legal Department and a computer analyst will represent the AFM at the FEAS meetings.

Meanwhile, the AFM has set a programme to upgrade the English language skills of the AFM's entire staff. The programme, which is to be held in cooperation with the British Council, will be tailored to meet the professional needs of the staff and enhance their communication skills with the global environment in this regard.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/02/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW										
266,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	14.3	1.31	12	160	80600	262.00	261.50	-0.50	-
2,100	1,900	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	58	51215	102961	2.03	2.03	0.00	-
2,620	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.3	5.97	1	450	1049	2.33	2.33	0.00	-
5,250	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.6	2.94	3	942	4427	4.71	4.70	-0.01	-
2,950	2,440	JOR. KUNAFAT BANK	19.9	0.00	2	1988	5465	2.77	2.75	-0.02	-
1,090	880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.78	2	1000	900	0.90	0.90	0.00	-
3,870	3,450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.6	0.00	1	867	1580	1.80	1.65	-0.05	-
4,180	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.4	0.00	11	1110	4268	3.86	3.84	-0.02	-
5,150	4,480	ARAB BANKING CO.	25.8	0.00	1	2000	9980	4.75	4.69	-0.06	-
1,440	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	1	7350	8673	1.20	1.18	-0.02	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 199.16		FCBGI: -0.20	92	66385	205965						
3,100	2,950	NATL. ABLIA INSUR.	3.7	5.00	3	936	2621	2.95	2.80	-0.15	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 120.16		FCBGI: 0.00	3	936	8141						
1,830	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.6	7.19	11	4881	8141	1.67	1.67	0.00	-
5,450	4,200	ARAB TEL. MOBILE	17.2	2.95	4	1580	6948	4.42	4.35	-0.07	-
1,880	1,080	HATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	14	5800	7041	1.24	1.22	-0.02	-
1,050	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	21.3	3.88	4	6300	6015	0.95	0.96	0.01	-
2,200	1,490	MID. EAST BOWLS	66.8	0.00	2	6450	9373	1.50	1.55	0.05	-
3,700	3,130	ARAB TEL. INV. EDUC.	13.4	5.88	3	6300	21440	3.47	3.40	-0.07	-
1,220	960	ZAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	450	477	1.05	1.06	0.01	-
1,200	810	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	6	4900	3920	0.81	0.80	-0.01	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 110.02		FCBGI: -0.67	45	26627	63355						
3,730	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.9	2.87	15	27020	93689	3.44	3.48	0.04	-
6,100	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.2	3.33	4	525	3150	6.00	6.00	0.00	-
10,400	8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.1	8.00	8	1870	18700	10.00	10.00	0.00	-
1,590	1,150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	59.1	0.00	1	100	133	1.30	1.33	0.03	-
3,520	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	36.0	0.00	5	1500	4005	2.67	2.68	0.01	-
4,500	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	20.8	5.28	14	3986	15081	1.76	1.79	0.03	-
2,310	1,570	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.0	7.41	1	1000	1620	1.63	1.62	-0.01	-
7,050	4,250	DAR ALDAMA OV. INV.	13.4	4.08	2	400	1960	4.90	4.90	0.00	-
5,800	3,130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.9	8.33	1	250	900	3.55	3.60	0.05	-
1,960	540	LIVESTOCK & SOULTRY	9	0.00	4	2000	1180	0.60	0.59	-0.01	-
1,810	370	NATIONAL INDUS.	9.6	9.23	3	2050	683	0.65	0.65	0.00	-
1,540	800	JATKED PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	3900	3054	1.06	1.05	-0.01	-
1,670	1,080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	28.8	0.00	17	5500	8423	1.52	1.54	0.02	-
1,840	1,440	UNIV. MODN. INDUS.	5.2	11.70	7	3500	5947	1.70	1.71	0.01	-
1,700	1,340	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.1	0.00	2	1250	587	1.17	1.35	0.18	0.01
1,270	840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	25.0	0.00	1	250	91	0.38	0.38	0.00	-
1,370	1,080	INTEL. TOBACCO	28.7	0.00	16	19788	23952	1.23	1.22	-0.01	-
1,470	930	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.6	0.00	10	4750	4756	1.01	1.00	-0.01	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 118.46		FCBGI: +0.27	118	77256	188814						
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 156.23	FCBGI: -0.04	258	181244	460755					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/02/1997											
790	500	JOR. TRADE PAC.	14.4	0.00	6	3050	1647	0.54	0.54	0.00	-
880	700	ORION INV. SOI	67.9	0.00	12	5136	1077	0.72	0.71	-0.01	-
910	370	ARAB PTA. INVEST.	9	0.00	11	27000	12150	1.00	0.95	-0.05	-
640	260	JOR. INDS. MATCH-TRACO	9	0.00	2	1500	376	0.26	0.25	-0.01	-
1,690	1,300	NATL. CHROMIUM	8	0.00	1	1000	1410	1.41	1.41	0.00	-
690	450	ARAB TEL. INV. TRD.	2	0.00	2	1250	588	0.48	0.47	-0.01	-
820	520	HATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	5	5100	2755	0.56	0.54	-0.02	-
880	400	NATL. MULT. ENG. MANFCTO	2	0.00	5	4800	2352	0.50	0.49	-0.01	-
700	470	ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	17.1	0.00	2	10000	5050	0.50	0.51	0.01	-
770	870	JOR. PHARM. 652	2	0.00	3	2160	540	0.61	0.60	-0.01	-
730	390	INDUS. TRD.	27.1	0.00	10	10850	7942	0.45	0.44	-0.01	-
950	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	7	3700	2442	0.68	0.66	-0.02	-
GRAND TOTAL											
				66	82746	38329					
+ : New 12 months Low											
N : Listed during the past 12 months											
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more											
- : Negative P/E											
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VALIT

UPCOE

CUBDAT

RETOAT

Answer: WITH A

Years ago, 2 took 12 days

HOW A MODERN RANCHER GETS HIS STEERS TO MARKET.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: AWARE CHAFE HYMNAL GYRATE

Yesterday's Answer: What the transplant brought the cardiac patient - A CHANGE OF HEART

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## Prince Abdullah to attend Arab Champions Cup

Faisali keep up training camp as ASF praises Jordan's participation

By Mufeed Hassouneh  
in Casablanca and  
Aleem Bannayan  
in Amman

AS AL FAISALI prepare to compete in the 3rd Arab Champions Cup which starts in Casablanca, Morocco, Feb. 27 the delegation was delighted to receive news that HRH Prince Abdullah, president of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), would be attending the championship on an invitation from the Arab Soccer Federation (ASF).

The organisers have also invited FIFA President Joao Havelange, Asian Football chief Sultan Ahmad Shah, African Football Chief Issa Hayatou, and Egyptian Football Chairman Samir Zahr.

Al Faisali will be the first Jordanian team to participate in the elite event which groups top

four Arab teams: Arab League Champions Egypt's Al Ahli, runners-up Morocco's Al Raja, Arab Cup Winners Cup champions Olympic Khreibkeh and Al Faisali who qualified after finishing in second place after Khreibkeh in the Arab Cup Winners Cup which was held in Amman last summer.

In previous matches between participating teams Al Faisali drew 1-1 with Khreibkeh in Amman in the first round of the Cup Winners Cup and lost 3-1 in the final in Riyadh. They lost 1-0 to Egypt's Al Ahli in Cairo.

ASF secretary-general Othman Sa'ad Saturday told a press conference that the organisers highly appreciated Prince Abdullah's attendance and highly praised Jordan's participation noting that the ASF considered Al Faisali to be the

team to watch. He said that the Arab Champions Cup aimed at naming the best Arab team as the event groups the top two teams of the Cup Winners Cup and League Champions.

Mr. Sa'ad said the ASF's agenda for 1997 included the Arab Cup in Qatar with the participation of 8-10 teams and a possible Arab soccer seminar in Amman hosted by the Jordan Sports and Youth Information Federation.

Meanwhile the ASF announced that significant cash prizes would be awarded to the participating teams with the winner receiving \$50,000, the runner-up \$25,000, the third place finisher \$15,000 and the fourth team \$10,000.

In addition, the Prince Faisal trophy and prize will be awarded to the ideal team. Each team will start the competi-

onship with 20 points. Two points will be deducted for each yellow card booking and 6 points for each suspension. There will also be prizes for top scorer, top goalie and best player.

Hosts, Al Raja, will receive \$50,000 for their organisation. Mr. Sa'ad added that the championship's matches would be televised to all Arab countries.

Al Faisali will be playing Egypt's Al Ahli in the opening match at 8 p.m. followed by the Khreibkeh-Raja match. Al Faisali's delegation had left Amman Wednesday to conclude their preparation with a five-day training camp in Casablanca prior to the start of the tournament.

The team will have a friendly match with the Bank of Morocco today and probably face a still unnamed first division

team Monday.

As part of the preparation, Al Faisali hosted Romania's Jiul Petrosani and had two matches in Amman losing 1-0 and winning 2-1 during the Ramadan holiday.

Al Faisali's 29-member delegation includes players: Anis Shafiq, Walid Abu Hmeid, Freidon Saeed, Mohannad Mahadin, Ahmad Khalil, Firas Khalallah, Ali Za'bi, Ihab Nasr, Rami Abu Fanar, Osama Talal, Rateb Awadat, Ziyad Abu Shanab, Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Hassuneh Sheikh, Hatem Agel, Haidham Sboul, Jiryes Tadros, Mahmoud Matar, Ja'far Hammad, Mansour Tawaiyah, Raed Jbour.

## Blaylock last-second shot lifts Hawks past Rockets

ATLANTA (R) — Mookie Blaylock's 15-foot jumper with one-tenth of a second remaining lifted the Atlanta Hawks to a 76-74 victory over the Houston Rockets Friday.

With the score 74-74, Blaylock forced Rockets guard Brent Price into a 10-second violation when he couldn't get the ball over halfcourt at the 14.4-second mark.

After a timeout, Price fouled Blaylock with seven seconds to play. Blaylock received the inbound pass, cut to his left and put up a 15-footer over Price for the game-winning basket.

"We wanted the ball in his hands," said Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens.

Blaylock finished with 17 points and Christian Laettner added 16 for Atlanta, which improved to 22-2 at home and avenged Monday's 127-98 debacle at Houston.

"We really wanted to show Houston we're a better team than what happened Monday," said Hawks guard Steve Smith.

Charles Barkley scored 22 points for Houston, which has lost eight straight road games. Hakeem Olajuwon was held to nine points, two in the second half.

"We blew the game, we just made a mistake," said Barkley. "It's all our faults. We win as a team, we lose as a team. We, we, we blew this one."

In Miami, the Portland Trail Blazers used a 23-2 run bridging the third and fourth quarters and rallied from an 11-point deficit for a 114-110 victory that snapped the Heat's franchise-record 11-game winning streak.

Rashed Wallace scored 25 points for Portland, which broke a six-game road losing streak. The Trail Blazers have won 18 of 20 all-time meetings with Miami.

The Heat lost All-Star centre Alonzo Mourning, who left with a torn right plantar fascia, a tendon that runs beneath the arch, midway through the third quarter with Miami up 67-60. Mourning had been playing with pain in his foot and sat out the All-Star game because of the

injury. "This was the worst team that we could have played against back-to-back," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "They're just very physical and we played as well as we could without 'zo'."

In Seattle, the Supersonics held New York without a field goal for nearly 10 minutes in the second half and got 17 points apiece from Gary Payton and Terry Cummings in an 84-64 rout of the Knicks.

Seattle limited New York to a franchise-record 20 field goals in ending the Knicks' season-high seven-game winning streak. Seattle stretched its own winning streak to five and beat New York for the sixth time in seven meetings. The Knicks made only two field goals in the fourth quarter.

At Washington, Michael Jordan scored 36 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Bulls 103-99.

Scottie Pippen added 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who defeated the Bulls for the eighth straight time and have won five in a row overall.

Juwan Howard had 25 points and 10 rebounds and Rod Strickland 23 points and nine assists for the Bulls, who played without injured All-Star forward Chris Webber for the fifth straight game and have dropped eight of their last 10.

At Los Angeles, Elden Campbell scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half and Eddie Jones also had 23 as the Lakers beat the Vancouver Grizzlies 99-91.

Los Angeles improved to 7-0 against the second-year Grizzlies.

In Charlotte, Glen Rice scored 18 of his 29 points in the third quarter as the Hornets broke open a close game and went on to rout the Los Angeles Clippers 114-96.

Anthony Mason recorded 22 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists and Vlade Divac added 22 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets, who got their largest victory margin this season.

At Detroit, Grant Hill came within one rebound of his sixth triple-double



Atlanta Hawks Dikembe Mutombo holds his ground as Houston Rockets Hakeem Olajuwon tries to muscle his way past to the basket in first half action at the Omni in Atlanta. Atlanta defeated Houston 76-74 (Reuters photo)

of the season as the Pistons posted their ninth straight win over the New Jersey Nets, 98-84.

Hill finished with 19 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, leading the Pistons to victory.

Newly acquired Jimmy Jackson led New Jersey with 23 points, nine rebounds and five assists, but the Nets fell to 0-2 since Monday's nine-player trade with Dallas.

Chris Gatling, acquired along with Jackson, added 21 points.

In Orlando, Penny Hardaway scored 22 points and interim head coach Richie Adubato improved to 2-0 at the helm of the Magic, who outlasted the Denver Nuggets 99-86.

Orlando turned 23 Denver turnovers into 38 points.

In Phoenix, Wesley Person scored 22 points and tied a career high with

six three-pointers as the Suns beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 94-88, snapping a three-game losing streak.

Cedric Ceballos had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Kevin Johnson added 20 points and seven assists for the Suns.

In San Antonio, Carl Herrera had two key baskets in the final 80 seconds and finished with a career-high 34 points as the Spurs snapped a seven-game home losing streak with a 98-93 triumph over the Milwaukee Bucks. Losers of seven of their last 11.

In Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta scored 18 points as the Timberwolves routed the Golden State Warriors 101-82.

Minnesota has won eight of its last 11 games.

### NBA RESULTS

Atlanta	76	Houston	74
Charlotte	114	LA Clippers	96
Detroit	98	New Jersey	84
Portland	114	Miami	110
Orlando	99	Denver	86
Minnesota	101	Golden State	82
Chicago	103	Washington	99
San Antonio	98	Milwaukee	93
Phoenix	94	Cleveland	88
Seattle	84	New York	64
LA Lakers	99	Vancouver	91

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SANDRA BULLOCK, JEREMY NORTHAM & DENNIS MILLER... IN  
**THE NET**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238  
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Adel Imam, Shireen & Saeed Saleh  
Bakhit Wa Adilah (2)  
Al Jardal Walkankah  
Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Michael Jordan & Bugs Bunny... in  
**SPACEJAM**  
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CONCORD "2"  
Robert De Niro... in  
**FAN**  
Shows: 3:30, 5:45

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## Chang and Martin to face off in Memphis semifinal

MEMPHIS (R) — Top seed Michael Chang and third seed Todd Martin advanced to a semifinal showdown in the \$825,000 St. Jude tennis tournament with victories Friday.

Thirteenth seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and eighth seed Todd Woodbridge of Australia will meet in the other semi. Chang, one day before his 25th birthday on Saturday, earned his second straight Memphis semifinal with a 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 win over seventh seed Richey Reneberg.

Martin advanced with a 6-4 7-6 (7-3) win over New Zealand's Brett Steven.

In the other quarterfinals, Bjorkman eliminated fifth seed Paul Haarhuis 6-3 6-4 and Woodbridge beat unseeded Jeff Tarango 6-3 6-1.

Chang's match against Reneberg included uncharacteristic unforced errors by Chang, who left the court to practice briefly on a sidecourt.

"I know every time I play Richey, it is going to be a battle," he said. "We've played quite a bit of times since I turned pro. It's always a lot of grinding and running around... A lot of long rallies."

Reneberg's best opportunity to put Chang in trouble came in the first set when he had five break points with Chang serving at 4-

5. He escaped the final break point on an unforced Reneberg return error, an ace and perhaps the best point of the match: an open-court volley to finish off an end-to-end rally.

In the second set, Chang faced no break points and won the match when Reneberg volleyed wide on match point.

"He is hard to beat," said Reneberg, who is 1-6 lifetime against Chang. "You have to hit good approaches and good volleys. You don't get anything against him without hitting good shots."

Martin, a finalist in Memphis the past four years, has one career victory against Chang in five matches, but the lone win came in Memphis.

"I will have to return serve well and I'll have to go take it to him," Chang said of playing Martin. "Todd has a great record here and seems to play his best tennis here."

Martin, who is 23-3 in Memphis, won the tournament in 1994 and 1995. "One of the reasons I play well here is because it's early in the year and I'm fresh physically and mentally," Martin said.

The other semifinal features two of the Tour's hottest players. Bjorkman is 13-2 this year and Woodbridge 11-1, and each has won a title this year.

## Davenport beats Capriati, Coetzer upset

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport beat Jennifer Capriati while second-seeded Amanda Coetzer was upset by Italian Francesca Lubiana Friday in the quarterfinals of the \$164,250 IGA tennis classic.

Davenport polished off the fifth-seeded Capriati 6-3 6-4 while the 110th-ranked Lubiana shocked Coetzer, 12th in the rankings, 6-0 6-4.

Third seed Kimberly Po stopped Sandra Cacic 6-3 6-3 and fourth seed Lisa Raymond bested Pam Shriver 7-5 7-6 (7-1).

Davenport will meet Po and Raymond will take on Lubiana in semifinals Saturday.

Davenport, who is eighth in the WTA rankings but lost to Capriati in the semifinals of the Sydney interna-

tional in Australia, jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first set before Capriati rallied to make it 3-2.

Davenport then broke Capriati's serve and won three of the final four games for the 6-3 victory.

Capriati, clearly the favourite of the capacity crowd of 2,400 fans, jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second set. Davenport broke her serve again and evened the match at 2-2.

A double fault by Capriati allowed Davenport to break serve again and take a 4-3 lead.

Davenport held serve the rest of the way and closed out the match, which required just 59 minutes.

The match just lasted two sets, but it was really tough," Davenport said. "Holding my serve was very important. She returns

serve so well. She hit a right forehand one time that was one of the best shots I've ever seen.

"When I lost to her in January, I won the first set and she came back to beat me in three sets. It was important for me to put it away this time."

Lubiana made Coetzer her second seeded victim of the tournament. She beat sixth-seeded Amy Frazier in the first round.

Lubiana, playing nearly flawless tennis, needed just 25 minutes to win the first set 6-0. The second set was more of a contest, featuring a single service break.

Tied 2-2, Lubiana broke Coetzer to go up 3-2. The South African missed three of four first serves in the set and "double faulted" once.

## Dominant Dortmund humbled by Duesseldorf

BONN (R) — Champions Borussia Dortmund bungled their chance to go top of the German First Division on Friday, crashing 2-0 at 16th-placed Fortuna Duesseldorf. Dortmund's expensive international striking line-up had almost all of the play but failed to trouble Duesseldorf goalkeeper Thorsten Walter, playing only his second match.

Instead, it was Duesseldorf, famed more for a stonewall defence than for an attack which had scored just 14 goals in 18 games, who took the lead against the run of play 40 seconds after halftime.

Congolese amateur Macchambes Younga pulled the ball back from the byeline for Russian striker Sergei Yuran to fire home from 10 metres.

With a shocked Dortmund throwing everything forward, Yuran's compatriot Igor Dobrovolski took advantage of the

space they left at the back to score on the break in the 58th minute and end Dortmund's run of nine matches without defeat.

The result left Dortmund in second place, two points behind Bayern Munich who have the chance to extend their lead when they travel to seventh-placed Bochum on Saturday.

"We deserved to lose because we couldn't make our superiority count," said Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

"Duesseldorf were hardly on the pitch in the first half but we built up their confidence for them." The night's two other matches both ended in away wins, Hamburg trouncing bottom club Freiburg 4-0 and Arminia Bielefeld beating St. Pauli 3-2.



Fortuna Duesseldorf's Markus Oberleitner (L), Rudi Istencic and Igor Dobrovolski (R) celebrate after winning their first division soccer match against Borussia Dortmund in Duesseldorf (Reuters photo)

ANWERP (R) — Belgium's Tim Henman, only seeded player to win the second round of the 1997 Wimbledon tournament, defeated the 11th seed, Andre Agassi, 6-4 6-3 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

Henman, 23, is the first British player to reach the quarterfinals since 1974. He is the first British player to reach the quarterfinals since 1974.

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# Martin to face off his semifinal

He escaped the final break point, but he was not out of the match when he was hit by a backhand shot from the open court. The ball hit the net and he was out.

In the second set, Chang faced no points and won the match when he was hit by a backhand shot from the open court. The ball hit the net and he was out.

Martin, a finalist in Memphis the previous year, has one victory against in five matches, but the long win in Memphis.

"I will have to serve well as well as have to return well," Chang said. "I will have to serve well as well as have to return well."

Martin, who lost to Chang in the first round of the Memphis tournament, said he was not sure if he was in the best of health. "I play well here, because I am in the best of health," he said.

The other semifinal features two-time defending champion Andre Agassi and Andre Agassi.

# Capriati. Coetzer up

Capriati, the first seed, will face Coetzer in the first round of the tournament. Capriati, the first seed, will face Coetzer in the first round of the tournament.

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# I humbled by Duesseld

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Andre Agassi, the first seed, will face Coetzer in the first round of the tournament.

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# Sports

## Henman overcomes Clavet to reach Antwerp semifinals

ANTWERP (R) — Britain's Tim Henman, the only seeded player to survive the second round, beat unseeded Francisco Clavet 7-6 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the European Community championship on Friday.

Czech players had contrasting fortunes in earlier quarterfinal matches with Petr Korda winning easily but Martin Damm retiring against German Marc Goellner after four games.

Sixth-seeded Henman, the world No. 19, faces Goellner in his semifinal while Korda meets either Belgian lucky loser Filip Dewulf or Swiss Marc Rosset in the other half of the draw.

"It's going to be a tough match. He's full of confidence but he has to beat me. That's the best part," Goellner said of Henman.

Henman took the first-set tiebreak 7-4 and battled back from 3-0 down in the second set.

He converted his third match point when world number 34 Clavet hit a lob long.

Clavet, a natural baseliner, squandered the chance to take a 5-2 lead in the second set when he allowed Henman to recover from 4-0 down and break his service.

Korda trounced Belgian qualifier Dick Norman, the tallest player on the ATP tour at 2.03 metres, 6-3 6-4.

Damm, who had sprained his ankle in the final set of his second-round match against second-seeded Chilean



Petr Korda of the Czech republic returns a backhand to Dick Norman of Belgium during their quarterfinal match at the European Community Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. Korda defeated Norman 6-3, 6-4 (Reuters photo)

## Romanian federation backs 2-year Negura ban

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian athletics officials are defending their decision to impose a two-year ban on women's cross-country champion Iulia Negura, rather than the four-year suspension of the sport's ruling body.

Romanian Athletics Federation (FRA) officials said on Friday Negura had been punished for a first offence with local rules, which prevail over the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) sanctions.

Negura, 30, was banned until December 1998 by the FRA and stripped of her gold medal after testing positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol at the 1996 European cross-country championships in Charleroi, Belgium.

The Romanian national team also lost their silver medal, but IAAF spokesman Georgio Reinieri insisted the punishment meted out to Negura should have been harsher.

FRA president Iolanda Balas said in Bucharest the FRA had sent the IAAF a copy of Romanian sports rules adopted last year, which allow for shorter bans for first doping cases.

Under those rules, a first doping offence is punished with a two-year ban, with a life ban following in case of a repeat.

Both Negura, who was punished for her first offence in a long career, and her coach Dorin Melinte have denied she had taken a banned substance.



France's overall Alpine World Cup leader Luc Alphand skies on his way to win the men's downhill at the Kandahar track in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Alphand won in the time of 1:54.27 minutes which was 0.58 seconds ahead of Italy's 2nd placer Pietro Vitalini and Italy's Kristian Ghedina who clocked the third fastest time 0.59 seconds behind (Reuters photo)

## Alphand takes World Cup downhill

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AFP) — France's Luc Alphand strengthened his grip on the overall World Cup title when he won the downhill here Saturday. Alphand, who won Friday's Super-G, clocked 1 minute 54.27 seconds to ensure his fourth downhill victory this season. Pietro Vitalini of Italy was second in 1 min 54.85secs and his teammate Kristian Ghedina, lying second to Alphand in the downhill standings, third in 1 min 54.86secs.

## Olympics rivals play waiting game

LONDON (R) — The leading candidates to host the 2004 Olympics jostled with each other on Friday to capitalise on the International Olympic Committee's initial evaluation reports of the 11 rival bids.

Rome and Athens were among the early favourites as the IOC prepare to announce a shortlist of five cities on March 7, but the Italians have already ruffled some feathers in Cape Town where organisers were keen to deflect concerns about their country's perceived crime problems.

Chris Ball, chief executive officer of the company in charge of the Cape Town bid, said South Africa had been warned in advance there would be "all sorts of skulduggery...including disinformation."

He also suggested some media reports on the IOC assessment of Cape Town, highlighting a reference to crime, were written from "a Rome perspective."

"Rome is trying to knock us off but all the indications are that we should be there (on the shortlist)," said Ball.

"(They are) glorifying Rome, and hining Cape Town where Rome is continually trying to hit us, which is on crime. If Rome can persuade the world that Cape Town is not safe, then Cape Town can't beat Rome."

"The IOC itself understands that crime is not an issue in the games. The issue is security and Rome has bigger security problems than Cape Town has," Italy greeted the IOC's positive evaluation of the Rome bid with enthusiasm.

"I have to say the report on Rome is excellent, better than could have been expected," said Primo Nebiolo, Italian president of the international amateur athletic federation. "Now we know that the candidacy is serious and very valid."

But opponents of Rome's candidacy have vowed there will be no let-up in their campaign to block the bid and accused officials of lying about how they would pay for the Olympics.

"We're not surprised by (the IOC's) evaluation as it was based on superficial and falsely construed data provided by the bid's organising committee," said Cristiano Brighita, spokesman for the committee against the Olympics in Rome.

The committee is made up of hundreds of intellectuals and environmentalists who say the games would be costly, disruptive and environmentally harmful to the ancient city.

Athens officials were upbeat about their chances of making the shortlist, as were Stockholm who are already looking towards the final judgement on September 5.

"I believe we will make the final stages," said Finn Persson, spokesman for the Stockholm bid committee. "We're looking forward to the next step which is winning the real final, on September 5. Then there will be no runners-up, no second place."

Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Lille, Rio De Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St. Petersburg are the other competing cities, with the Russians denying a reported budget figure of \$9.6 billion which the IOC said raised serious concerns.

"We have planned revenue of \$2.2 billion and planned expenditure of \$2.1 billion. The figure named in the report is absolutely outrageous, no-one can meet such a crazy target," said Alexander Kozlovsky, vice-president of the Russian Olympic Committee.

## Jordan's soccer team plays Iraq today

### Delegation concludes training camp Monday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S national soccer team Sunday conclude their two-week training camp in Baghdad Sunday when they play their Iraqi counterparts in their fourth friendly international match in preparation for their upcoming World Cup qualifiers which start in April.

In their first encounter in Baghdad last week, Jordan lost 1-0 but team officials were happy with the result taking into consideration the Kingdom's players faced more experienced counterparts who have reached the second round of World Cup and Asian qualifiers on many occasions.

The Jordanian team had started an intensive training camp in Baghdad Feb. 10, where they had training sessions twice daily.

The camp comes after two friendlies against the Lebanese national team in which Jordan lost the first encounter in Beirut 1-0 while the second one in Amman ended in a 0-0 draw.

Other friendlies scheduled by the Jordan Soccer Federation include two matches against Syria, March 16 in Amman and March 23 in Damascus, and another two against the Oman in Muscat March 8, and 11.

Jordan's Asian Group 3 qualifiers start in Manama, Bahrain against the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain April 8.

The Lebanese team will be facing Kuwait and Singapore in Group 7, while Iraq will be playing Pakistan and Kazakhstan in Group 9.

Thirty-six Asian countries will contest the first round World Cup qualifiers and have been divided into ten groups.

The top team in each of the 10 groups will qualify for the second round where the teams will be divided into two groups.

The first two from each group will then contest the Asian finals.

The first three qualify directly for the 1998 World Cup in France while the winner of a play-off between the fourth team and the Oceania Zone winner will also qualify.

The Kingdom's team includes Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Mu'taz Rishheh, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Yousef Ammouri, Amjad Taher, Mohammad Khaz'ali, Isam Mahmoud, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Faisal Ibrahim, Hussein Shananeh, Abdallah Shiyab, Ra'fat Ali, Adnan Awad, Raed Monani, Bassam Al Khatib, Aref Hussein, Khaled Yousef, Munir Abu Harash, Nari Yaday, Walid Abdul Rahman.

Seven of Al Faisali's players, currently on leave to take part in the Arab Champion Cup in Morocco, have not joined the national team's training camp. They are Khalil, Mahdian, Subhi Suleiman, Ja'far Hammad, Hasouneh Sheikh, Jiryes Tados, Head coach Mohammad Awad said the seven might join the team starting with the matches in Oman.

Al Faisali will join Arab Cup champs Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh, Arab Clubs champions Egypt's Al Ahli, and runner-up Morocco's Al Raja (see separate story on page 10)

## Majoli gets a scare on way to Hanover semis

HANOVER (R) — Third seed Iva Majoli narrowly avoided defeat by France's Anne-Gaelle Sidot at the Hanover grand prix on Friday before fighting back to win their quarter-final 4-6 7-6 6-4.

Sidot made the early running with determined groundstrokes until Majoli, the world number nine from Croatia, finally took control in second set tie-break.

Majoli's semifinal opponent will be Austria's Barbara Paulus who returned to form in 1996 after struggling for years with injuries and was one of three players nominated on Friday for the WTA's "comeback player of the year" award.

Paulus won through 7-6 6-4 against Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands, second-round conqueror of second seed and German home favourite Anke Huber.

The other semifinal pits Czech top seed Jana Novotna against Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria. Novotna cruised past Yelena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-4 6-2 and Maleeva beat Sandrine Testud of France 6-1 6-4.

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Paintex d RMCCS 37-34

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UCM d Toepfer 42-35

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Aqaba Ship. d VISA 52-48  
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WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMAM HIRSH

**THE RETURN OF TRUMP COUP TOMMY**

North-South vulnerable. South dealer.

**NORTH**  
♠ 883  
♥ 64  
♦ KQ63  
♣ 10652

**WEST**  
♠ J9642  
♥ 10983  
♦ J108  
♣ K9

**EAST**  
♠ Void  
♥ Q532  
♦ 87642  
♣ J764

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 10 7  
♥ A K J 7  
♦ A  
♣ A Q 8

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass  
3♣ Pass 3♣ Pass  
4♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

He had not been seen at the club for almost two years, and suddenly he was there, sitting at the table with his old cronies, swapping stories and playing as badly as ever — except in one circumstance. As readers of this column are aware, Trump Coup Tommy became a master technician the moment

trumps broke badly. This deal is from the very first session after his return.

For once, Tommy bid the hand reasonably. Six spades was an excellent contract. With normal suit divisions, a heart and a club would be discarded on the king and queen of diamonds, a heart could be ruffed in dummy and the club finesses offered the chance for an overtrick.

How Tommy might have butchered such a simple contract quickly became academic. Tommy won the opening lead in hand, cashed the ace of spades and, to him, East's diamond discard was like music from heaven.

Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts and ace of clubs, then entered dummy with a heart ruff. On the king and queen of diamonds two clubs were discarded, a club was ruffed in the closed hand to reduce West to nothing but trumps and the remaining heart was led.

West's vision of two trump tricks vanished into thin air. The defender was forced to ruff and then had to lead away from the jack of trumps into Tommy's tenace. Believe it or not, Tommy lost nothing but a heart trick, and that to a defender's ruff!

**undp**

**UNITED NATIONS SEEK SOCIAL EXPERTS**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan is inviting Jordanian national with an educational background in the social sciences and extensive working experience in the social sector to indicate their interest in being included in UNDP's roster of social sector experts.

This roster will be used in the future to identify suitable candidates for both full-time positions and medium-to-short-term consultancies in social sector activities sponsored by agencies of the United Nations in Jordan, especially in the field of poverty reduction, employment promotion, social welfare, and/or income generation for low-income groups in Jordan.

If you are interested in having your name included in this roster, please forward your detailed curriculum vitae to the address below. Please clarify in your cover letter whether you wish to be considered for full-time positions or for consultancy assignments of limited duration.

Please write to UNDP, P.O. Box 35286, Amman 11180 and mark your envelope "Social Sector Roster" no later than Monday, March 10, 1997. All indications of interest will be treated in the strictest confidence.



## Government warns public sector engineers after they stage sit-in

By Ghalia Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government reacted sternly on Saturday to a sit-in in front of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works by hundreds of public sector engineers who were demanding pay increases and promotion in salary scale.

"The government is committed to the memorandum of understanding" reached between the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) and a special ministerial committee formed to study the engineers' demands. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said in a short press release carried by the Jordan News Agency Petra.

"The country's need for more qualified teachers and other specialists is greater than its need for doctors and engineers," he warned.

Demanding a 180 per cent increase in their basic monthly salaries which currently average JD150, engineers held banners saying "we struggle for our rights" and "we work hard in hand to achieve our demands."

The ministerial committee earlier this month agreed to amend the engineers' basic salary allowances and promised to send the decision to the Cabinet for approval.

But, JEA Vice President Husni Abu Ghida said the association did not yet hear from the government.

"We heard lots of promises, but nothing happened," he said.

The engineers were also demanding promotion to higher levels on the public sector employee scale.

Public sector employees are rated on a scale of 1-10,



Jordanian engineers demanding pay increases stage a demonstration in Amman on Saturday (Reuters photo)

the lowest being 10.

Mr. Abu Ghida earlier told the Jordan Times that before 1988 newly graduated engineers could begin their careers as public employees from grade five, while today these engineers are hired as sixth grade employees with less benefits and allowances.

Engineers told the Jordan Times that since 1988 their salaries diminished by 30 per cent.

Mr. Abu Ghida said the government had promised to amend the current by-laws, regulating the allowances for public sector engineers within three months dating from last October.

"It has been four months and no serious action to change these by laws was made by the government," Mr. Abu Ghida asserted.

"The engineers are sceptical that the government will change these by-laws."

Petra quoted Minister of Housing and Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali as saying that the decision to stage a sit-in was illogical and did not contribute to the government's efforts aimed at solving problems facing all professional associations.

Mr. Kabariti called on all engineers to "resume their work and act responsibly away from sloganeering" which is incompatible with current conditions of the economy.

Mr. Majali told Petra that the ministry implemented most of the articles included in the memorandum of understanding and opened the doors for constructive dialogue with the engineers.

Mr. Abu Ghida agreed with the minister, but countered that the main points of the memorandum, which include an increase in the basic salaries and promotion

to higher levels on the public sector employee scale were not implemented by the government.

Mr. Majali said the salaries of the engineers working in the private sector are much lower than those of the public sector engineers.

However, the public sector engineers said they were determined to carry on with their protest action, "if the government fails to respond to their demands."

They said that next week they will organise a protest march from the association to the Prime Ministry. Engineers will end the march with a sit-in in front of the prime ministry.

One week after the march they will stop working for two hours every day. This strike will continue for a week to be followed with a general strike on March 22.

## Assad accuses Netanyahu of doing nothing for peace

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad on Saturday accused the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of doing nothing for Middle East peace, during a visit here by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Syria is committed to the peace process and wants peace, but the Netanyahu government has done nothing up until now to encourage peace," Mr. Assad said during a joint press conference with Mr. Mubarak.

The Egyptian leader, who arrived here earlier Saturday, left Damascus after holding brief talks with Assad on the peace process. Assad said Mr. Netanyahu's call for a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks "without pre-conditions" was in itself a pre-condition.

"None of the parties concerned with peace have previously imposed conditions, nor has Syria, because there is a principle on which the peace process was based... and that principle must be accepted," he said.

The 1991 Madrid conference which launched the peace process was based on an exchange of land (occupied by Israel) for peace.

Mr. Netanyahu met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington earlier this month to discuss ways to relaunch the Israeli-Syrian peace process, which ground to a halt a year ago.

Syria says that the former Israeli government promised to negotiate on an Israeli withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights, which Israel seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, in exchange for a peace

treaty. But Mr. Netanyahu said he wants the talks to begin without preconditions, including what Syria said was a verbal commitment made by Israel's former government.

"Netanyahu... wants peace talks as a winner and the Arab sides the loser," Mr. Assad charged. "Once he wants peace for peace, then he wants security for peace. Syria wants the Golan, and bewants the Golan, too."

Mr. Assad added: "I have not found a window — or, better to say, a gap or a passage — that would allow us to start peace talks. We have nothing that makes us confident that he (Netanyahu) ... really wants peace."

Mr. Mubarak said that the rights of all sides must be respected in order for there to be a fair and total peace.

In interviews with several Lebanese newspapers published on Friday, Mr. Mubarak said he doubted there would be any military conflict between Syria and the Jewish state.

"The Israelis informed me that they had no war-like intentions," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa held talks Friday with the European Union's envoy for the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos, on the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Musa said after the meeting that they discussed "the peace process situation and the European role in upcoming phases of the process" in addition to Egyptian and Arab efforts for the next stages.

## Arafat, opposition to meet this week to discuss joint platform

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will meet this week with Palesonian opposition groups to discuss a joint platform for peace talks with Israel, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) announced Saturday.

Thursday's meeting in the autonomous West Bank city of Nablus "will be attended by Yasser Arafat and all the factions," Ahmad Abdul Rahman, Mr. Arafat's cabinet secretary, told the Voice of Palestine.

The announcement came after two key militant groups opposing Mr. Arafat — Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — agreed to participate, marking a political victory for Mr. Arafat.

In the past, opposition groups have set pre-conditions, such as release of prisoners, before agreeing to meet with PNA representatives.

"We support this dialogue," said Abu Masameh, a Hamas leader, told the Voice of Palestine.

"We have different views but we are concerned about national interest."

In Jordan, however, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said that Abu Masameh's statement was a "personal opinion and does not represent the movement's stand" and that Hamas had not decided yet to participate in the dialogue.

PFLP leader Abdul Rahim Malouh said on the Voice of Palestine that his group

(Continued on page 7)

## Arabs seek U.N. action against Israeli project

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Arab bloc at the United Nations asked the U.N. Security Council on Friday to take action to prevent the construction of a new Jewish neighbourhood in Jerusalem.

In letters sent to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Security Council president, Palestinian representative Nasser Al Kidwa, chairman of the Arab bloc at the

United Nations this month, protested the planned settlement known as Har Homa in the south of the city's eastern sector. He said it would create a "dangerous situation."

"We want the council to act in prevention of such a situation," said Mr. Kidwa, following a meeting on the topic Thursday by the Arab countries.

Palestinians fear the settlement — 6,500 homes for 25,000 Israelis to be built on

185 hectares of mostly Arab land confiscated by Israel in 1991 — would cut Arab East Jerusalem off from the rest of the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he will give the green light to the controversial project although, under pressure from Washington and fears of Palestinian violence, he has postponed the decision until next week.

In his letter, Mr. Kidwa

reiterated his denunciations of "illegal practices" under international law by the "occupying power" in Jerusalem.

If Mr. Netanyahu proceeds with the project, the Arab bloc at the United Nations will demand a meeting of the Security Council and ultimately a resolution on the issue, Mr. Kidwa told AFP.

He said he planned to meet with council members on Monday.

## Opposition says 5 Uday bodyguards executed

CAIRO (AP) — Five bodyguards assigned to protecting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's eldest son were executed after the attempt on his life in December, an opposition group alleged Saturday.

The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution (SCIRI) in Iraq said the bodyguards were executed Feb. 15 in the presidential palace compound in Baghdad. It said the executions were carried out by a special security unit and were supervised by Uday's younger brother, Qusai.

The Iranian-based group, whose members are mainly Shiite Muslims from southern Iraq, said it received its information from sources close to the Iraqi military.

There was no way to independently verify the report.

Uday, 33, has been in hospital since unidentified gunmen shot him on Dec. 12 while he was in his car in the Baghdad suburb of Mansour.

Reports from opposition groups say at least one bullet remains lodged near his spine, threatening paralysis.

Opposition groups say that scores of people have been rounded up for questioning in the case, but there has been no formal announcement of any arrests.

Iraq has blamed Iran for the attack. The Iranian-backed Al Dawa Party, a Shiite opposition group, claimed responsibility shortly after the attack.

Saturday's SCIRI statement was faxed to the Associated Press in Cairo by the group's London

office.

It identified the slain bodyguards as Jasim Hummad, Mohammad, Faisal Yousef Hamed, Shihab Salahadin Salman, Omar Fuad Hassan and Talat Hussein Othman.

It said security forces were still looking for others who had served as Uday's bodyguards.

The group said its sources inside Iraq said that a woman was in detention on suspicion of involvement in the attempted assassination.

It said she was in Uday's car at the time of the attack. It identified her as Sana Hasan Abed.

Other reports on the incident said Uday was alone in his car at the time of the shooting, waiting for a bodyguard to return from a nearby store.

The attack on Uday has rattled Iraq, where he was believed to be the heir-apparent to President Saddam.

In recent weeks, Uday's television station, Al Shabab, has frequently shown film clips of him receiving visitors in his hospital room at Ben Sina Hospital. In the most recent film on Friday night, Uday was shown sitting up in a wheelchair, his left arm and left leg immobile.

SCIRI also said Saturday Iraqi authorities have detained 722 Iraqi Prisoners of War recently freed and repatriated by Iran.

It said the prisoners released unilaterally by Iran in late December were being kept in a detention centre near Baghdad.

## Sudan says rebel push thwarted

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese army says it repulsed an attack by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on the military post at Pibor in the south.

The daily Al Engaz Al Wazani on Saturday quoted an army communique as saying the army "inflicted heavy losses" on the attackers.

Pibor is about 1,000 kilometers south of the capital Khartoum.

State-run television carried part of the communique late Friday night. It said that about 600 rebels attacked the town and military post and were repulsed. It said the government suffered "limited casualties," but gave no figures for deaths on either side. The newspaper said the rebels abandoned three mortars, ammunition and a truck.

Sudan has accused Eritrea and Ethiopia of participating in the fighting. Both countries deny involvement.

## Jordan said reluctant to accept Abu Marzouk

AMMAN (AP) — The government is resisting receiving the leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas if he is extradited from the United States, apparently because Jordan had asked him to leave two years ago.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team has sounded out Jordan for its position, but King Hussein "expressed reservations" about taking back Musa Abu Marzouk, a government source said Saturday. The source, who insisted on anonymity, declined to elaborate.

The King met with FBI Director Louis J. Freeh on Thursday night during the American official's tour of the Middle East that also included Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Abu Marzouk, 46, was arrested in the United States in 1995 when his name was found on a list of terrorist suspects. A U.S. judge ruled in May there was cause to believe he was involved in planning 10 attacks in Israel in 1990.

1994 in which 47 people died.

He maintains he is a political leader of Hamas and has nothing to do with the group's military wing, which carries out attacks on Israelis. Hamas is opposed to the Palestinian peace accords with Israel.

Jordan asked Mr. Abu Marzouk to leave in 1995, when it came under pressure from the U.S., Israel and the Palestinians because the Hamas leader was allegedly plotting anti-Israeli attacks from the Kingdom.

Israel had demanded Mr. Abu Marzouk's extradition to put him on trial, but it reportedly has dropped the idea in the belief that such a trial would cause a backlash among Palestinians.

Jordanian officials have said Jordan feels Mr. Abu Marzouk should be sent to the Palestinian territories, a move expected to be discussed when King Hussein visits President Bill Clinton in Washington on March 18.

## Hizbollah condemns Red Army arrests

BEIRUT (AFP) — A senior Hizbollah leader on Saturday condemned the Lebanese government's arrest of five suspected Japanese Red Army members, saying they had served the country's cause.

"What is taking place is disgraceful," said Sheikh Sobhi

Tufayli, a former secretary general of the Iranian-backed militia and now the leader of the movement's hardline wing.

Sheikh Tufayli, in remarks published in the press here Saturday, said the Lebanese government was showing a "lack of loyalty" towards the Japanese Red Army.

"The Lebanese authorities have arrested a man who was one of the authors of the heroic Lod attack and who has given everything for our cause. They are treating him as a criminal and want to sell him," he said.

Sheikh Tufayli was referring to Kozo Okamoto, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Israel for a 1972 attack on Tel Aviv's Lod airport, which left 26 people dead.

He was freed in 1985 during a hostage swap between Israel and Palestinian guerrillas, and is said to be

among the five Japanese

Red Army members picked up along with two Lebanese suspects last weekend in Beirut and the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Since Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced the arrests on Sunday, Lebanese officials have kept quiet about the case apart from Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, who said Tuesday the suspects were being interrogated.

Japan on Thursday urged Lebanon to speed up legal proceedings to identify the suspects, and said it would seek their extradition if they turn out to be Red Army members.

Lebanese judicial sources, however, said preliminary results are not expected before Monday.

The Red Army was particularly active alongside Palestinian movements during the 1970s, carrying out several plane hijackings and seizing or attacking numerous diplomatic missions in Asia and Europe.



Novak honoured

BERLIN (AFP) — Actress Kim Novak came out of retirement to receive a Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival late Friday for her cinema career, and particularly for her starring role in Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo".

Novak, 63, who now breeds lambs on an Oregon ranch, said James Stewart, her co-star in "Vertigo" was her favourite acting partner.

Sheen faces charges

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actor Charlie Sheen was slapped by prosecutors Friday with a misdemeanor battery charge for allegedly attacking his girlfriend in December at his home. Sheen, 31, is the son of actor Martin Sheen and star of "Wall Street." "Platoon," and "Hot Shots." He has been free on \$20,000 bail since his arrest Dec. 20. Britanny Ashland said she had been dating Sheen for about five months when they got into an argument. She said he grabbed her hair and pushed her to the floor, knocking her unconscious. She said he made her remove and dispose of the blood-spattered dress she had been wearing, refused to let her leave and threatened to kill her if she told anyone what she claimed happened.

'Sex-switch has no legal bearing on marriage'

SAINT-GALL, Switzerland (AFP) — A marriage stays a marriage, even when the husband switches sex, a court in this northern Swiss town ruled Friday. The district court, which has jurisdiction over name and identity changes, was called on to give its verdict in the case of a man who had changed his name after becoming a woman. "For the first time, at least in Switzerland, it concerns a married person and we had to give a ruling over the validity of the union," district court Vice President Thomas Mettler told AFP. "We decided the marriage could continue, even if the man is today a woman," Mr. Mettler said.

Crooner unhappy over cancellation

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Christian crooner Pat Boone says some of his Christian followers just don't know to take a joke. The Trinity Broadcasting System cancelled Mr. Boone's "Gospel America" show Wednesday after viewer complaints about Mr. Boone's new recording in which he does parodies of "heavy metal" music and sports black-leather garb. "They did not get the joke," said Mr. Boone, 62. "That's what astounds me the most about this. People, particularly in Christian America, have known me for 30-something years as an upfront, outspoken advocate of all our positions."

Castro's romantic side revealed

HAVANA (AFP) — Letters from Fidel Castro to his long-time lover Natty Revuelta, published Monday in Spain, "are the letters of two people who meet and love each other as human beings," she told AFP. "They weren't secret or hidden. They are letters which passed through the hands of (prison) censors at one time," she said by phone after the conservative Spanish daily ABC published the private missives apparently released by her dissident daughter by Mr. Castro. One reads: "One kiss is the same as another kiss, but lovers never tire. There are sentences which are really kisses, and there's honey which is never too sweet. That's the secret of your letters." Jan. 31, 1954.

## Rival Iraqi Kurdish factions in Iran for talks

TEHRAN (Agencies) — The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, and the number two of the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) are here for Iranian-mediated peace talks, the official IRNA news agency said.

Mr. Talabani and Nitchwan Barzani, the KDP's second in charge, arrived in Tehran on Friday for separate talks with senior Iranian officials and then joint discussions over their territorial disputes in northern Iraq.

They will be discussing developments in northern Iraq with Iranian officials,

IRNA said. It said the KDP had asked for the meeting in Tehran, but did not elaborate.

The KDP, however, charged the PUK on Saturday of preparing to restart fighting in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, in a statement received by AFP in Dubai.

"The PUK has massed forces and deployed heavy weapons along the ceasefire line" separating the two factions, the group said, adding that its rival had also "distributed ammunition and intensified its press campaign."

The PUK said in a separate statement that it was respecting the ceasefire line and would "not be the first to

break the truce."

The two groups have been contesting for power in the Kurdish-controlled area carved out in northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war.

Last August, the KDP drove Mr. Talabani's supporters out of Erbil and surrounding areas with help from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's army.

The PUK, backed by Iran, staged a comeback soon thereafter and retook most of its strongholds in northern Iraq, including its bases in the town of Suleimaniyeh.

The two groups agreed to a ceasefire in October mediated by the U.S. and since then the front had been largely

quite although some skirmishes were reported in December.

There have been reports that Baghdad is trying to reconcile with Mr. Talabani in an attempt to regain control of the region.

The United States and Britain patrol a "no fly" zone over the north to protect the Kurds from attacks by Iraq, but the allies have given up trying to maintain order on the ground.

The United States, Britain and France set up a "safe haven" for Kurds in the north after a failed rebellion by the Kurds against the Iraqi regime in 1991.